



GOD OF MUSIC

BOOK 02

Lee Chang Yeon

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God of Music

(음악의 신)

by

Lee Chang Yeon

(이창연)

Synopsis

A minus's hand that fails every singer he put his hands on, Kang Yoon.

He meets his death after being chased by loan sharks, losing his beloved sister and his everyday life.

However, with those 10 years earned through coincidence...

In his new life, he will walk the path to the best planner.

3rd rate or 1st rate, through his hands, they will become legend!!

Acknowledgement

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English Translation by Kobatochandaisuke (Chamber) @ [KobatoChanDaisuki](#)

Translation Edits by Nerebear, Nahct @ [KobatoChanDaisuki](#)

ePub conversion by Lisa Hayes @ [Hasseno Blog](#)

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Chapter 101. Hot Spring (2)

-9:30 a.m.

Kim JaeHoon was currently in a morning radio programme at SBB station. Named ‘Morning Live with Han SeYoung’.

Han SeYoung, an announcer, was a radio DJ who was loved for her graceful appearance. She asked, just as gracefully, to today’s guest, Kim JaeHoon.

“A while ago, you appeared on K company’s music show, didn’t you?”

“Hahaha, I guess that did happen.”

“The song you sang back then caused all sorts of outrage. I heard that the views are increasing explosively even now....”

“Well, as much as it embarrasses me to say it, yes, it is. I’m only thankful.”

Kim JaeHoon was careful with everything he spoke. Appearing on air after his long sabbatical, made him nervous. However, under the lead of Han SeYoung, he began to relax.

She asked Kim JaeHoon many things, especially regarding the new company that he joined. Both knew that the masses were mostly interested in this.

“I met a good person when I was in hardship. I caused everyone to worry a lot, but I will reply to them with my songs.”

Kim JaeHoon replied to the question with that line.

Han SeYoung, on the other hand, seemed to be slightly disappointed by that answer. Still, she didn’t panic and asked him to sing a song. Kim JaeHoon replied that it wouldn’t be so good since it was early in the morning and sang a short song.

“The meaning behind my tears –”

It was ‘Promise Again’ that he sang back in the music show. The heavy, yet high voice made Han SeYoung’s eyes dreamy for a moment. However, she came back to herself as she was a pro.

“I consoled myself, saying it was rain –. And I’ll stop here.”

“Wooooow.”

Han SeYoung clapped. He was as good as always. The real-time internet comments were complimenting Kim JaeHoon as well.

Leaving many people wanting for more, Kim JaeHoon’s radio recording finished.

“Thanks for your work.”

“You too.”

When the commercials aired, Kim JaeHoon left the radio station, escorted out by Han SeYoung. Outside the studio, which still had red lights on, KangYoon was waiting.

“Thanks for your work. Shall we go, then?”

“Yes.”

KangYoon left the station with Kim JaeHoon.

-11:00 a.m.

At the anniversary of H&S electronics company. Kim JaeHoon was holding a microphone in front of nearly 300 of its employees.

“The meaning behind my tears – I consoled myself saying it was rain –”

Kim JaeHoon’s voice rang out inside the employee’s ears. In this boring anniversary, Kim JaeHoon’s appearance was like a rain in a drought. The female employees were almost screaming, while the men were almost dancing.

However, since this was a company-wide event, it wasn’t exactly burning passionately. Kim JaeHoon waved his hand in slight disappointment.

“Thank you.”

“Whoaa..... Oh.”

The employees clapped Kim JaeHoon out. They wanted to cheer out loud, but due to their superiors, they couldn't do so.

-1:45 p.m.

A regional event at Chungjoo P Department store.

The small concert venue constructed next to the department store was already full of people, as though these people had known beforehand that Kim JaeHoon was going to appear here. It was certain that it had been advertised beforehand. The department store seemed to have advertised very well, and there were many different types of people here.

“Hello everyone! Kim JaeHoon here.”

Due to the time chosen of the concert, most people here were parents of students in their 30s. However, there were quite a few students as well as men.

Kim JaeHoon started singing after breaking the ice.

“My love — disappears — at a flip of a”

As though there was some magic in his voice, all of the audience members waved their hands in the air in sync.

-4:49 p.m.

Girls clad in school uniform all screamed out in unison as soon as they saw Kim JaeHoon. Kim JaeHoon waved his hand awkwardly since it had been such a long time since he last heard fangirls screaming like this. When he did, the cheers became even louder.

“Like the moon hidden behind the clouds –”

The students were very dynamic. Amongst the cheers, Kim JaeHoon's voice became even louder.

‘He definitely adapts well to the stage.’

KangYoon, who was watching from behind the stage, shrugged his shoulders.

-6:22 p.m.

Seoul H-hotel entrepreneurship event

-8:28 p.m.

Seoul J-hotel banquet

-9:41 p.m.

Interview for the music magazine, 'Manuscript'.

-11:30 p.m.

Photo shoot for the men's magazine, 'HIT'.

"Hahaha, ahahaha...."

After all the events for that day, the time was already past 2 a.m. Kim JaeHoon's eyes were half out of focus. Due to the immense schedule, his eyes were nearly closed.

"You worked hard today."

"You too, hyung."

KangYoon patted Kim JaeHoon's shoulders. Then he asked as he drove him back to his house.

"Are you going to keep living in that semi-basement house?"

"I was going to move when I get my payment. But I don't have any payment. Haha...."

Kim JaeHoon laughed awkwardly. There was no way he liked living in that semi-basement. As for the contract deposit, all of it was used in paying back his debt. He had no financial room to get another living space.

KangYoon sighed shortly and asked.

"...Do you want to live at my house for a while?"

“What? What do you mean?”

“Just for a while. Living in a semi-basement house is bad for your health too.”

Kim JaeHoon was thankful for KangYoon’s consideration, but he still refused. He thought that being indebted to him just for the singing was enough. However, KangYoon kept proposing that to him.

After thinking for a while, Kim JaeHoon eventually accepted.

“...Then I’ll bother you for the time being.”

“I’ll say this up front, but I don’t have any weird hobbies.”

“...That’s not funny.”

“Sorry.”

KangYoon turned the car around towards his house.

After arriving home, KangYoon gave Kim JaeHoon an empty room. It was somewhat wrong to give him HeeYoon’s room after all. The empty room was also large enough for Kim JaeHoon to live in.

“Nice house.”

Kim JaeHoon was very satisfied with his new living space. Although this was an ordinary standalone house, it was much better than the semi-basement he used to live in. KangYoon gave him some blankets.

“Make yourself home.”

“Thank you. I’ll bother you for a while.”

While Kim JaeHoon went to wash, KangYoon went to his room and turned on the computer. He was planning to read through some articles that were published today.

‘Nothing special.’

Looking at the search words, he saw that it wasn’t that much

different from before. Other than some DiaTeen selfies, there wasn't much else to pay attention to. However, he then noticed a strange article at the corner of his screen.

‘Rebirth Entertainment?’ (T/N: I don't know if this is ‘reverse’ or ‘rebirth’ (same pronunciation in KR), but I'll go with the latter.) This was the company that Kim JaeHoon belonged to before he came to World Entertainment. They were also the cause of the 1.5billion won debt. KangYoon clicked on the article.

– CEO Yoo MinSung of Rebirth ENT “Kim JaeHoon’s contract is not over”, no mention of copyrights President Yoo MinSung of Rebirth Entertainment claimed that the contract between his company and the popular singer Kim JaeHoon is not over yet. President Yoo MinSung told through an interview that the contract between Kim JaeHoon and Rebirth Entertainment was not finished up properly and asked for an immediate settlement.

(omitted)

However, he also claimed that this is not the time yet to talk about copyrights and avoided mentioning it.

(omitted)

‘.....’

KangYoon found this rather small article absurd. The contract was finished ages ago. Moreover, they also held the copyrights as well. They were only talking about what was advantageous for them.

‘I should take care of the previous company problem as well. I can't leave that be.’

Just as he closed the browser window, Kim JaeHoon came into his room.

“Wow. So, you work at home too?”

“Huh? Oh. I just find myself comfortable to work at home. Didn’t you also do some compositions, JaeHoon?”

KangYoon smoothly turned around in his chair and switched topics. Any signs of discomfort had all been erased from his face. Kim JaeHoon exclaimed at the musical devices in KangYoon’s room.

“A bit in the past. But I don’t think I have any talent for writing music. So, I decided to focus on singing.”

“That’s a pity. Doesn’t a singer-songwriter sound attractive?”

“I think it’s better to focus on one thing rather than trying many things out. Otherwise, I might have collapsed during the past 4 years. I think I only survived because I focused on singing.”

“That’s true. So, I just need to give you good songs?”

“That’s more than welcome for me. But you know? I am very picky when it comes to songs.”

Kim JaeHoon playfully replied to KangYoon’s words.

KangYoon told Kim JaeHoon to come and showed him a song. This was the song that HeeYoon sent to KangYoon. It was a rather slow-rhythm song with no lyrics or even any kind of arrangement. Kim JaeHoon hummed the melody as he listened to it.

KangYoon’s eyes saw musical notes making harmony. Unfortunately, though, the light was very weak. After listening to it, Kim JaeHoon tilted his head.

“Hm.... It’s not bad. I think the melody’s good. But can you polish the end parts a bit?”

“Really? What do you want to be changed?”

“The mood goes up too rapidly. Smoothen it down a bit.”

KangYoon wrote down the things he said. He was planning to ask HeeYoon to redo those parts later.

After talking about the song, it was already 3 a.m.

Both KangYoon and Kim JaeHoon were dead tired.

“Let’s sleep. We need to visit a hair salon tomorrow too.”

“Yes. Have a good night.”

The two’s day started early in the morning and ended well into the next day.

And not even 4 hours later, their flaming day began again.

Rebirth Entertainment was a well-going company that once had 5 popular stars belonging to their company. However, these days, the financial status of the company became more difficult, and they fell into a small company with just a single entertainer in their ranks.

The reason behind that....

“Dammit. A dud again today.”

President Yoo MinSung grumbled while leaving the “game room” filled with smoke. The rough beard on his chin as well as the smell of smoke that stained his entire body made him indifferentiable from a drug addict. (T/N: ‘game room’ = gambling den) He took out his phone. Unlike his clothes, his phone was a limited edition with a gold ring around it. He called and was connected to a man.

“What happened?”

– There’s no reaction yet. The masses are silent about it too.

“It’s about time someone takes the bait. Dammit.... Okay.”

President Yoo MinSung was a very rough man. He hung up one-sidedly.

“I’m hungry.”

He then went into the Soondae gukbap place next door.

“Old Hag! One gukbap here! Just the soondae!”

Angrily ordering food as he always did, he turned around to the TV. On the TV was a music video of some idol girls. His gaze naturally headed towards their long legs which were emphasized by their clothing.

(T/N: Most restaurants have TVs in Korea....)

“Dammit, I should have done a girl group too. Damned Kim JaeHoon.”

He only blamed the innocent Kim JaeHoon.

This was an era of girl groups. It was no exaggeration to say that 70% of the pop music industry was taken over by girl groups. Each and every TV programme featured girl groups at least once. Entertainment shows, dramas, and even some documentaries.

When the gukbap came out and he started eating, he got a phone call. It was from the employee from before.

“What is it? I’m eating.”

– I apologize. World Entertainment has called.

President Yoo MinSung put down his spoon.

“Oh yeah? What did they say?”

– They’re asking us why we bring up a contract that ended two years ago. That we should check the contract properly....

“.....”

President Yoo MinSung was deeply enraged. These people didn’t seem to know that he had the copyright; as well as the immense amount of money that came with it....

“Oh, yeah? Their CEO spat out bullshit like that?”

– It wasn’t their President, but their director. It was a woman....

“Director? I can see the level of the President, taking a bitch as a director.” (T/N: Oof) President Yoo MinSung clicked his tongue.

His conservative ideals didn't understand it at all.

“Well, fine with me. They don't want the copyrights eh. Tell them to do whatever they want. And tell them to never call back....”

– They said they'll sue for the interference of business if we call them back.

“Whaaaat!? SUE!? ME!?”:

President Yoo MinSung abruptly stood up from his seat. Sue? Out of all things they could do, sue? It was an insult to him just thinking about it.

“Which bitch is this!? HUH? Who does she think I am! Send me that number, NOW!”

President Yoo MinSung's shout was loud enough for everyone in the restaurant to hear. He left the restaurant in a rage without even eating. Paying for the food was not in his mind right now. Even while walking on the streets, he shouted very loudly. He couldn't care less about the people around him.

A moment later, the employee messaged him a number. He hung up on the call and called that number immediately. Soon, a woman's voice came out through his phone.

– Hello? This is Lee HyunJi.

“Was it you that spouted all that bullshit?”

– Who is this?

The opponent was rather calm even after hearing all those insults. President Yoo MinSung started uttering in rage, but the reaction was bland.

After a long while, and President Yoo MinSung settled down a little, a calm set of words came out through the phone.

– The contract was finished two years ago, and the penalty for breach of contract was paid in full. You brought up that contract

and went against the obligation of the protection of privacy. An employee from our company went to the police station with an accusation. You'll probably be summoned soon.

“What!? Sue me? You, who are you? You don't want Kim JaeHoon's copyrighted songs?”

-Then I will hang up. Oh, and, you know that this call is being recorded right? Since you insulted us, we will also put contempt as one of the crimes. May we never see in person.

And the call was hung up one-sidedly.

“Hey, HEY!”

President Yoo MinSung shouted out loud in the middle of the street. Everyone avoided walking near him, whispering about how strange he was.

“Good, good! Kim JaeHoon. This is how you act, huh?”

Madness erupted in President Yoo MinSung's eyes.

“I did as you said, President, but I'm still worried. Didn't we provoke him too hard?”

Lee HyunJi called KangYoon as soon as she hung up the call with President Yoo MinSung.

- Thank you for your work. He must have insulted you a lot.

“That's fine by me. I'll just sue him for that anyway. I'll just consider this some pocket money since we spent a lot of money recently. Anyway, I made him really mad. He has zero tolerance. He may really be a gambling addict.”

Lee HyunJi heaved a deep sigh. Such a man was a President of a company. Pathetic.

- Hahaha. You must have had a hard time listening to all those insults.

“Actually, I’m even more curious about how you know President Yoo MinSung. You shouldn’t have met him either.... How did you know he was a gambling addict?”

– That’s.... Anyway. It’s about time we moved onto the next step. We’ll make them come to us.

Lee HyunJi didn’t pry as she knew that KangYoon didn’t want to talk about it. Regardless of the source of this information, she didn’t really care much.

“How do we do that?”

– The reason they did that unfunny interview was all because of money. They should be earning quite a lot through copyrights, but that money is being put down the drain through gambling, so they must want more from us. We’ll get our opportunity when they find us. We just need to aim for that.

His voice contained conviction. Lee HyunJi nodded his head in understanding.

“Okay, then. I’ll get into the lawsuit first.”

– Please. I’ll be outside for the time being, so take care of our members.

“Don’t you worry about that.”

The call ended. Lee HyunJi stretched her arms and stood up from her seat.

“Well then. Shall I start?”

Lee HyunJi started preparing the things that KangYoon spoke about.

Chapter 102. Hot Spring (3)

Inside a club in Koreatown, LA.

6 women were receiving spotlights on a stage. Their colorful voices and fancy performance was giving the audience a great time.

“WHOAAAA— “

“Are You Eddi? Eddios!” (T/N: A pun on ‘are you ready’ I suppose...)

The audience shouted with the official cheering slogan for Eddios. The easy-to-follow melody and the fun dance revitalized everyone. After shouting, laughing, and enjoying their time, the stage was over in an instant.

“Thank you.”

Eddios – the girls exited the stage after bidding the audience goodbye greetings in Korean before leaving the stage. They quickly left the club and got in the van that was waiting. The manager, who was waiting for them, started up the car along with encouragements.

When the car left the bustling district, the woman in the front seat – Han JooYeon – started grumbling.

“How long are we going to perform in Korea Towns?”

Sighed she as she looked at the bags under her eyes through her phone. When they first came to America, their ambitions, such as performing in the Times Square, or appearing on the largest music channel of America, the MMTV, made them excited, but by now, they didn’t even think about such a thing in their dreams. No, it would be more correct to say that they experienced the wall of reality.

As though sympathizing with her words, A tall women by her

side interjected.

“It was only a few months ago that we went to New York.... But I think we’re only going around Korea Towns now. There aren’t any news articles about us either....”

“HanYu, you think so too? Actually... me too.”

Sympathizing with what Seo HanYu was thinking, Han JooYeon shoulders drooped. The powerless expression on her face was enough to tell the difficulty of their lives here.

Going around Korea Towns was no different from doing things in Korea. The girls found it very fatiguing that they were going around such biased stages in the largest frontier of music, the Billboard charts. They all wanted to jump into the greatest stage that was the Billboard charts. However, the wall of reality was very thick.

The atmosphere inside the van was very dark. All the girls had dark expressions. At that time, the woman with the tied hair at the very back of the seats, Jung MinAh, spoke.

“We still have a schedule to do. There are people that still like us. Why does it matter if we’re in Korea or America?”

“.....”

Thinking that she was correct, everyone became quiet. She continued.

“Whether it’s the Korea Town’s or the Times Square, we should be thankful that we get to perform at all. Actually, I have it hard to, but we’re still doing well! Let’s just endure until December!”

“Yeah, that’s right. It’s just until December!”

The woman who was using Jung MinAh’s laps as pillows, Christie An, also shouted out loud. The girls all raised their hands cheers in sympathy. Everyone was dearly awaiting December, as though something would happen then.

The van soon became bustling with talks about December. The managers reacted sensitively to that.

The van then headed to their next schedule.

– I can't believe you let me down —

Kim JaeHoon's distinct low voice rang across the plaza. The visitors, who never even imagined that they would be able to see Kim JaeHoon at a theme park, all ran towards where the stage was in joy, as they suddenly got this rare opportunity to listen to Kim JaeHoon in person.

KangYoon was watching this from the side of the stage.

‘He's definitely getting his former skills back.’

Looking at the notes from Kim JaeHoon, KangYoon nodded in satisfaction. The more the people gathered, the better his voice seemed to be getting. One lady fan at the front seats had dreamy eyes as though she was enchanted by his voice. No, it wasn't just her, many of the audience were in similar states.

With Kim JaeHoon showing off his skills, KangYoon also liked it. But at that time, his phone started ringing.

[President Yoo from Rebirth is calling once an hour. It's somewhat off to block him. What do we do?]

It was a text message from Lee HyunJi. She asked since there might be some trouble if she blocked it and that caused troubles for KangYoon.

‘That Yoo MinSung fella, he's quite the disturbance everywhere.’

KangYoon immediately gave the word – to block the number. Lee HyunJi had done enough facing off against that guy. She should have heard some vicious words, and she should have felt very frustrated as well. KangYoon also added that she should never call them back whether personally, or in business. When he messaged

back, a reply came back immediately.

[What do we do if they come to find us?]

[Call the police, of course.]

[Wouldn't that make things worse?]

When Lee HyunJi was worried, KangYoon reassured her saying that they will never come to their company. Lee HyunJi also seemed to have thought the same and finished the message there.

Meanwhile, Kim JaeHoon's song was reaching its peak as well. KangYoon thought to himself while looking at Kim JaeHoon pushing himself with his voice.

'In the past (previous life) Yoo MinSung was notorious for overseas gambling. He even got famous comedians and actors into this gambling scandal and was at the center of this whole thing. There was even a saying that you should go to Yoo MinSung if you want to know about gambling in the entertainment industry.'

KangYoon remembered this incident very clearly. In his previous life, this was an incident that caused a massive uproar. It involved three famous actors as well as two well-known comedians.

– Cause you – don't think—

Kim JaeHoon's voice kept coming out of the large speakers. It was now the ending parts of the song. KangYoon thought about how he should deal with President Yoo MinSung as he watched Kim JaeHoon leaving his immersion into the song.

'Right now, I don't know what the people involved in my previous life's gambling scandal are doing now. My first course of action should be to look into that. There are many things that changed as I returned to the past. I need to investigate this in detail. This is also a very sensitive topic, so I should ready myself well.'

Receiving the cheers from the audience, Kim JaeHoon looked

very happy. His figure, immersed in the song, was shining very brightly. His uniquely low, yet rising voice was leading the audience somewhere.

However, would he be able to sing that well if he knew that his previous boss was causing trouble? President Yoo MinSung should have known about this fact and intentionally did that interview to pressure both KangYoon and Kim JaeHoon.

“Only a fool would be led by the nose.”

“What is?”

Just as KangYoon organized his thoughts, Kim JaeHoon exited the stage after the song. KangYoon nonchalantly received him.

“Nothing. Well done. Is your condition okay?”

“Not at all. I think we traveled long enough to circle the entire country three times.”

“If it’s too hard, then just say it to me. I’ll loosen it up for you.”

When KangYoon offered him water, Kim JaeHoon drank the whole thing in one go. Water was awesome for a fatigued body.

KangYoon patted his shoulders and they headed to the van. Even though he said that, Kim JaeHoon had a smile on his face. Although he was currently digesting a tough schedule, it wasn’t like he was continuously doing concerts. There were other schedules intermittently. Thanks to that, he was doing pretty well despite the schedule.

After the concert, they were about to get in the van and leave when some lady fans approached and asked for autographs. When KangYoon asked Kim JaeHoon’s opinion, he kindly decided to autograph them. He even took a photo with them as well. KangYoon smiled in satisfaction seeing that he was taking care of his fans despite the tough schedule.

“Well, a veteran sure is different, alright.”

“I’m still far. Rather than that, hyung, I can really feel your experience. Did you say you were a manager for 7 years? It’s really awesome going around with you. Especially in concerts. I don’t need to concern myself with anything.”

Kim JaeHoon complimented KangYoon for his management skills. Although Kim JaeHoon was a rather easy-going man normally, he became a sensitive perfectionist when it came to concerts. In that sense, KangYoon was supporting him flawlessly in everything. By himself too.

“You overestimate me.”

KangYoon just laughed as always and they left the theme park.

The time was nearing evening rush hour. It would be foolish to take the main roads. KangYoon chose to take roads that people did not usually take. With the car going to roads some of which didn’t even look like roads, Kim JaeHoon had to hold tight. Although the driving wasn’t rough, his head started spinning

“Urgh...!”

“We’re almost there. Hold it in.”

No matter how well he cared for Kim JaeHoon, it wasn’t so easy to do that with bumpy roads.

“Easy music; visual music – these are what’s becoming popular. The characteristics of visual music is that it’s easy to follow, but people have to enjoy what they see on top of using melodies that are easy to remember. Following that.....”

Park SoYoung was currently taking notes of things that the professor was speaking about at the front. Her notebook was already full of various colored ink. The lecture from the man that was just over his 40s was easy to follow and fun.

“...Let’s stop here for today.”

The lecture ended. The students revitalized again after the tough lecture.

Park SoYoung also stretched her arms as she stood up. Her skinny stomach peeked out between her T-shirt and jeans.

“SoYoung. Wanna go for a round?”

“Sorry, I have reports to do.”

“Oh well. Do hang out with us later.”

Park SoYoung refused the male senior’s offer and headed to the library. She was very popular at college with her small figure, yet confident personality. Moreover, it wasn’t like she boasted, so the girls didn’t exactly hate her either.

After eating a few pieces of bread for dinner, Park SoYoung headed to the library. She booked a seat in the study room and went upstairs to borrow some books and started writing her report. Due to the conservative mindset of the professor, she had to write the report by hand.

(T/N: I’m not sure about other countries, but in Korea, you have to ‘book’ your seat in the study room of the library. Otherwise, you can’t use it. It’s usually full during the exam period.)

‘Baroque or Rococo or whatever....’

After writing the report until her hands started hurting, she even confused a musical style with an architectural style. Although she had good concentration, she couldn’t win against the pain in her hand and stood up.

‘I’ll rest for a bit... ugh.’

Park SoYoung left the study room and headed to the vending machine outside the library. She was about to insert a coin but she slipped and the coin fell on the floor.

“Argh, dammit!”

When she vented out her frustration, a couple nearby flinched

and walked away. Not seeming to mind, Park SoYoung picked up the coin and bought a can of coffee.

‘Do I have to stay up overnight?’

She was worried since the deadline was close, but then, her phone started ringing. It was a foreign call. A 213 area code of a +1 country code. It was from America. There was only one place she would receive a phone call from in America.

“Is it HeeYoon?”

– Oh? You know immediately now?

“Hehe, sure I do! How have you been doing?”

It was from her friend, HeeYoon. Park SoYoung’s voice became much brighter hearing her friend’s voice she hadn’t heard for quite a long time.

When Park SoYoung voiced her concerns about the expensive foreign calls, HeeYoon relieved her by saying that she had enough money for that.

– So, after graduation is a problem everywhere. It’s hard to get a job nowadays, right?”

“HeeYoon, you must have it good. You have your brother. You can make all the songs you want....”

There was faint envy contained in her voice. In Park SoYoung’s perspective, KangYoon would be lenient with HeeYoon’s songs since it was his sister’s. However, the response she got completely broke that.

– Do you know how hard nagged me when I first sent him a song? At first, he told me to do it again after hearing just the intro. I was about to cry when he told me to do it again when he didn’t even listen to the first verse.

“Well, KangYoon-oppa might be the person to do that. A veteran like him should have been exposed to many kinds of songs.”

– SoYoung, you should give my brother your song too. You can have him evaluate it. You’re going the songwriter route, aren’t you?

“Eek? My song? No way. How can I do that?”

– Who knows, you might coincidentally make a great song. My brother doesn’t consider reputation when it comes to work.

Park SoYoung’s face reddened when she heard that. This was very different from the time she let KangYoon listen to her song for her college entrance exam. What’s more, she didn’t have confidence in herself – is she really at a level where she could show her work to others?

Not seeming to mind, HeeYoon finished the call saying that it was time.

– If we talk more, the call would be too expensive. I’ll call you later.

“Okay. Have a great time there. Are you coming to Korea this year?”

– I’m not sure. I should be able to go there at least once though. I guess I have to meet the members of the company.

“See you at that time then.”

Park SoYoung finished her call with her friend.

Although this was an enjoyable call, every time they hung up, she felt rather bitter.

‘How am I supposed to live on?’

She continued to compare herself against HeeYoon and worried about the future.

Chapter 103. Hot Spring(4)

“President, you’re here.”

Chief Yoon SangHo took a 90-degree bow towards President Yoo MinSung. However, President Yoo MinSung barely glanced at him and just went inside his room. When he went inside, Chief Yoon SangHo sighed deeply.

“...What’s up with him?”

“He’s probably out of money. He always visits when he has no money.”

A female employee, who was standing next to him, replied to his question. She also didn’t seem to like the president of her company too much.

“Ah, shit. I’ll get called again, won’t I.”

As soon as he finished his words, a loud shout was heard from the president’s room.

“Chief Yoon! Chief Yoon!”

Chief Yoon SangHo was grumbling and stood up from his seat. It was evident that he was going to get scolded by him. Noticing this, the remaining employee looked at him with pity.

When he entered the president’s room, President Yoo MinSung glared at him.

“How the hell are you doing your work?”

“Sorry, sir? What do you....”

President Yoo MinSung threw a set of papers at him. Although this happened every time he was in this room, every time it happened, his pride hit rock bottom. He only lowered his head. This was a tragedy for the breadwinner.

“Hey, you damned XXXX. Why is there no reaction from Kim

JaeHoon? Didn't you say that he'll come to me if I told the media about it! Why is it still so quiet! Speak if you have a mouth on your ugly face."

'You told me to do it, duh!'

Chief Yoon SangHo was flabbergasted. He already told the president that nothing would come out of mentioning Kim JaeHoon with the media since the contract was already over. Moreover, World Entertainment was run by the ex-president of MG Entertainment, Lee HyunJi, as well as Lee KangYoon, who was also originally from MG. With this being the case, he proposed not to get involved with them as much as possible. However, it was President Yoo MinSung who forced this through.

"Dammit, nothing's to my liking. Whether it's inside or outside."

"....."

While Chief Yoon SangHo became a sandbag for the president, a knock was suddenly heard.

"Can't you see that we're talking here!"

President Yoo MinSung hated being disturbed the most and glared at the female employee that just came in. The female employee handed him an envelope while shaking.

"I... I'm sorry. B... but it's very imp... important...."

"I don't like it. Fuck off."

The female employee deeply nodded her head and left the room.

When she left, President Yoo MinSung ripped the envelope roughly.

"There is something to investigate... so I'm asked to show up at the Gangnam police station? HAH? WHAT?"

What he got was a summons. President Yoo MinSung abruptly widened his eyes. This was surely the doing of that World Entertainment president.

“Huh, that’s it, huh? You don’t care about copyrights huh? Hah!”

Seeing the unexpected summons paper in front of him, President Yoo MinSung’s rage shot up to the skies.

‘Who the hell provoked this mad dog? Are you crazy?’

It wasn’t easy to calm the enraging President Yoo MinSung. Chief Yoon SangHo fell into deep thought.

At the office, Lee HyunJi was taking a phone call while typing.

“Yes. Okay. So that guy was quite the tyrant even there.”

Lee HyunJi was a god of multitasking. Seeing that, Jung HyeJin looked at her with wonder.

“...It doesn’t matter how much time it takes. Negotiation? I’ll do it if they wish to, but it looks like it’s not happening from what I’ve heard from you. Okay. Thanks for your work.”

Lee HyunJi put down the phone after the call. Jung HyeJin approached her, curious about the contents of the call.

“Uhm, director. Was that the police?”

“Yes. Apparently, the suspect just came to shout all over the place before leaving.”

“Eeh? That’s not good....”

“Actually, it’s the opposite.”

Jung HyeJin voiced her opinion in her words.

“What? Do you mean that that person is innocent?”

“That’s not our true objective. Our aim is to psychologically pressure Yoo MinSung.”

“Psychological pressure? True aim?”

Jung HyeJin tilted her head. She didn’t know what was going on. The suing wasn’t the end of it. However, she had no way of

knowing since Lee HyunJi didn't explain anymore.

"There, there. I won't be here tomorrow, so you'll have a lot of work to do. If you don't want to work overnight tomorrow, you should finish your work for today by today."

"Eeek? I'm taking care of a lot of your work too, you know...."

"Don't worry, you'll get proper payment. Do you have a boyfriend?"

"...I'll bury my bones in the company. Please don't poke me where it hurts."

Jung HyeJin pouted. Although she was still young and active, she didn't have a lover yet.

Normally, managers oversaw one or one group of entertainers. However, once there was a lack of people, they would have to cover for others as well.

It was like that right now, for manager Kim DaeHyun.

"Do I take care of JaeHoon-hyung instead of the president today?"

"Yes. You won't be touching equipment like White Moonlight, so you don't need to worry too much."

At the office, KangYoon was giving orders to manager Kim DaeHyun. Since he had to come to work early, manager Kim DaeHyun looked very tired. Last night's concert by White Moonlight ended late, and he had to wake up early today.

"It's fine since JaeHoon isn't that picky normally. However, he'll become sensitive once he's on stage. Especially...."

KangYoon told many things to manager Kim DaeHyun. He was writing down everything he could hear in case he missed something. This was his own know-how.

“Then, I’ll be off.”

Kim DaeHyun left, and KangYoon started his work. It was a rare office based work. Although Lee HyunJi and Jung HyeJin were taking care of KangYoon’s work in his stead, there were things they couldn’t do, and he had to stay at the office and leave Kim JaeHoon to Kim DaeHyun.

KangYoon wrote down things on his note and organized the things for the meeting at lunch.

‘Hyun MinWoo. An actor. He’s the only actor that couldn’t return to the industry after the foreign-country gambling incident happened. Although the amount was large, he had no backing like the others did. Well, it would be funny for a side-character actor to have any backing.’

If a side-character actor had a backing, then would he stay a side-character? KangYoon laughed at that thought. He pondered about how to persuade Hyun MinWoo to turn him into a weapon against President Yoo MinSung.

‘It would be good if there was a photo... I guess I can’t help it.’

If he had evidence, then he would be able to do this for sure. KangYoon found it a pity that he didn’t. However, there were other ways.

‘It is clear that Hyun MinWoo person is easily scared. And I’m pretty sure given the situation. If he scheduled a meeting with me with just a single text message, then I’m pretty sure I’m onto something.’

KangYoon had sent an email to Hyun MinWoo.

He did not mention the word ‘gambling’. He only implied that Hyun MinWoo did something with President Yoo MinSung. And when he sent that message, he got the reply pretty much immediately. It was to schedule a meeting. There was no way he would reply in that tone if he was truly innocent. KangYoon was

sure that he was onto something.

It became lunchtime and KangYoon headed to a Korean restaurant in Gangnam, where they scheduled to meet. When he told the employee that the reservation was under the name Hyun MinWoo, the employee guided him right away.

“Hello. I am Hyun MinWoo.”

“Lee KangYoon.”

Hyun MinWoo had not brought anyone with him there, including his manager. He sighed in relief after seeing that KangYoon hadn't brought anyone with him either.

The food came out soon, but only after a long time did he start speaking.

“Fuu. Thank you for your email.”

“.....”

“To tell you the conclusion, I'm not involved with President Yoo MinSung in any way.”

KangYoon thought that it had finally begun.

“So that seems to be the case.”

“Yes. I only met them a few times due to his introduction. It's just that much.”

“Okay. But I don't think you should have had to explain so much to me when it's only our first meeting.”

When KangYoon carefully said that, Hyun MinWoo flinched. However, he soon calmly spoke.

“Haha, I only replied to the contents of your email.”

“You could have replied through the email too, and you brought me to such a nice place. I'm only thankful.”

“Haha.”

Hyun MinWoo's face turned bright red. KangYoon wasn't speaking in a teasing tone. He was unable to see what KangYoon was thinking. He felt as though he became ahead of himself and scheduled this meeting. Moreover, he had failed in keeping his poker face as well. No one would say he was an actor.

KangYoon was at ease while eating. However, Hyun MinWoo was unable to lift his cutlery even in front of this amazing range of food in front of him.

"Please eat."

"N..no. I'm not feeling well nowadays."

KangYoon shrugged his shoulders and ate various things. When his chopsticks grabbed many of the side dishes, the food disappeared fast. Although KangYoon didn't eat that much usually, he ate more than usual today.

'Uuh....'

Hyun MinWoo's clenched fists trembled. It was no wonder since KangYoon was eating all that expensive food while he wasn't eating any. KangYoon didn't seem to mind him and only ate away deliciously at the food.

The meal ended, and the desserts came out, but KangYoon did not bring up the topic. But Hyun MinWoo couldn't ask what business he had with him.

'Urgh, just what is he thinking?'

Nowadays, there were many things that made him flinch. He was especially sensitive to the words "Yoo MinSung". He was unable to see whether KangYoon knew about this incident or not, or whether he was teasing him since he knew too well about it.

"Hahahaha, so Min JinSeo did that?"

"Yes. She was so frightening even though she's calm usually.... You should have seen her eyes at that time."

However, unlike his uncomfortable heart, the mood was quite bright. KangYoon made him relax talking about Min JinSeo. As an actress, she was a familiar topic to an actor like Hyun MinWoo. She had debuted as a child actress, and later became a successful adult, and she was now a well-known actress in China. She was a dream-like existence for actors.

After dessert, KangYoon said that it was time and was about to get up.

‘So, it’s a failure?’

Although he acted like it was nothing on the outside, he was actually very nervous on the inside. If this failed, he would have to approach another actor or singer related to Yoo MinSung. Since he also had to manage Kim JaeHoon’s schedule, he wanted to avoid wasting time like this as much as possible.

It was just as he was about to leave through the front door.

“Wait.”

Someone called him from behind.

“Is there anything?”

“I apologize, but can I take 10 minutes of your time?”

KangYoon inwardly rejoiced. He waited 2 hours for these 10 minutes. Of course, he was okay with it. When he sat back down, Hyun MinWoo carefully brought up the topic.

“Did you... mention Yoo MinSung?”

“I did.”

“Fuu. Can I smoke a little?”

When KangYoon gave the okay, Hyun MinWoo lit up his cigar. He started to speak in a serious expression.

“Before I start, I want to ask what your objective is. That is, why you want to hear about Yoo MinSung from me, I mean, the reason

you sent your email.”

KangYoon felt that this was the critical moment. He sat upright and met eyes with Hyun MinWoo. It was time he got honest.

“I wish to liberate JaeHoon from him.”

“JaeHoon, you say.... Oh, Kim JaeHoon. It makes sense now. He received the most damage from that Yoo MinSung. Then, you must be the president of Kim JaeHoon’s new company?”

“I am indeed.”

KangYoon then introduced himself properly. Hyun MinWoo nodded as though he understood everything.

“Now I get it. Well, if you are the president of the place Kim Jae Hoon belongs to now, you must find Yoo MinSung’s harassments unacceptable. He must have dragged some weird contract clauses and threaten Kim JaeHoon.”

“It was rather unpleasant that he called one of my employees to threaten us. He felt like a man crazy for money.”

Hyun MinWoo put the cigar light out. His hands looked rough.

“Yes. He is indeed a man crazy for money. However, he’s quick-witted and sneaky and always escapes the law through loopholes. He likes overseas gambling so much that he’s even got a debt, and yet he still uses the slot machine like he’s some lunatic.”

Gambling – it finally came out. KangYoon shook his head. It looked as though this Yoo MinSung guy’s attitude was the same just about anywhere.

“Gambling addiction ruins an entire family, sooner or later. I also lost a lot of money being with him. I tried to return to my everyday life after coming to myself, but... he wouldn’t let me go. He even rips some money off me with threats.... And I could only endure and accept his threats. Maybe I am an entertainer after all.”

“Haa....”

KangYoon sighed. He felt a deep pain coming out of Hyun MinWoo's shaking body.

"You are trying to make Yoo MinSung that dude never step on this industry again, yes?"

"Yes."

KangYoon declared. Then, Hyun MinWoo laughed out loud.

"Hahahahaha! Very well! I shall gladly help! What can I do for you?"

"You must turn yourself in."

Hyun MinWoo's expression turned grim in an instant. However, KangYoon's words hadn't ended yet.

"Defamation is unavoidable. You will have to give up going on TV for quite a while. However, fortunately, you are in your rest period. Considering 2~3 months of repentance, it will overlap with your resting period. Moreover, it's turning yourself in. You can make the image that you are truly repenting. If you market this well, then you will be able to make yourself look even better than before."

"Urgh...."

Hyun MinWoo seriously fell into thought when KangYoon said that. Turning himself in? This was about an entertainer gambling in a foreign country. He had to consider his image losses. However, if he thought about it, the time for repentance was quite short, and with the fact that he is truly repenting, he may be able to rise even higher with proper marketing. KangYoon's words weren't entirely nonsense.

However, he still asked KangYoon in hesitation.

"Let's say I turned myself in. What do you get from it?"

This was a difficult question, but KangYoon answered it immediately.

“We’ll regain what is rightfully ours.”

Hyun MinWoo tilted his head, but KangYoon only smiled. After thinking about it for a long while, Hyun MinWoo accepted KangYoon’s proposal.

The next morning at 10 a.m.

Hyun MinWoo headed to a police station.

Thud!

An enormous noise rang out inside the president’s room. The sturdy desk was dented due to the strength.

“What? Hyun MinWoo, he turned himself in?”

President Yoo MinSung shouted inside the empty president’s room. Looking at the internet, the most searched words in the past 24 hours was ‘Hyun MinWoo’ while the second was ‘foreign gambling’.

“Is that guy fucking crazy? Are you trying to leave this field? Are you never going to come back? Are you even sane?”

He was getting as angry as he could get, but his heart, was the opposite – it was shrinking. He only sat down on the sofa only after he swiped his desk clean in frustration.

“Crazy, everyone’s just... not right in their minds! Dammit!”

The company was practically halted to a standstill due to the President’s roaring. The employees working just outside the president’s room all had gloomy faces.

At that time, President Yoo MinSung’s phone started running. It was an unknown number.

“Hello?”

– Is this President Yoo MinSung?”

“Who is this?”

– I am Lee KangYoon, I’m calling because I wish to meet you.

President Yoo MinSung’s eyes trembled after listening to those words.

Chapter 104. Hot Spring (5)

“I’m not sure if we have a reason to meet.”

President Yoo MinSung replied calmly, hiding his restlessness in his heart.

They say bad things come in waves, and this seemed to be exactly like that.

He had become very sensitive since Hyun MinWoo had turned himself in, since his own gambling history might get leaked, but the one who sued him had called him now.

He didn’t feel that good.

Regardless, his conversation opponent spoke calmly as well.

-Perhaps, since we had some disagreements with each other. However, if you change your thinking slightly, we might need something from each other.

“I don’t need anything from the likes of....”

– Hyun MinWoo, as well as money.

President Yoo MinSung became speechless since the words were spot on.

When he became silent, KangYoon continued to speak.

-I’ll be there in 2 hours. if you don’t need it....

“Well... I might be out, but if you don’t mind waiting, then sure.”

President Yoo MinSung’s eyes sparkled hearing the word ‘money’.

However, he couldn’t show that he was thirsting for money. Since the opponent was the one coming to him, it was very likely that the other side wanted something as well.

-Well, then see you in a bit.

The call ended.

President Yoo MinSung snorted at his phone.

“Hmph, looks like he’s in quite the hurry, saying that he’ll come here himself. Let’s see what trash talk he’s got.”

Snorting, President Yoo MinSung leisurely cleaned up his office.

2 hours later.

KangYoon had arrived at Rebirth Entertainment.

Guided by a female staff, he was lead to the President’s office.

Inside, President Yoo MinSung was waiting for him there, with a proud posture.

“Welcome.”

President Yoo MinSung gestured KangYoon to sit wherever he liked. Although his actions were quite rude, KangYoon’s expression did not change at all.

Instead, the female staff looked ashamed and gave KangYoon a cup of coffee.

“Thanks.”

The female staff was very astounded to see KangYoon so calm despite her own boss’s rudeness. She thought that he may be on the losing end of this matter, but it didn’t look like that from his attitude. In her curiosity, she put her ears against the door after leaving the room in order to listen to what they were talking about. Next to her was another male employee.

Regardless, the main topic began inside the president’s office.

“I was wondering if I would be able to see you at all after your haughty attitude.”

“Since we’re in an uncomfortable relationship, let me get straight to the point. I have something you want, and you have

something I want. I wish to trade the two.”

“Oho? Something you want? And you have something I want?”

“As I told you two hours ago, I can give you money.”

KangYoon took out a small box of canned drinks. It was a small box enough to contain 10 cans. President Yoo MinSung snorted at that.

“What would that be?”

Just as President Yoo MinSung was about to stand up to leave, KangYoon silently opened the box. Inside the box were not a series of drinks, but stashes of 50,000 won bills (50,000KRW is about 50 USD) “Whoa...!!”

“It’s a little over 50 million won (50K USD), I’ll hand it to you.”

President Yoo MinSung’s eyes sparkled when he heard those words. This was 50 million won. There was no way he was going to get this for free. However, 50 million was still very tempting.

‘He’s getting riled up.’

KangYoon secretly smirked seeing that President’s Yoo MinSung’s eyes were being colored with greed.

President Yoo MinSung looked as though he was hesitating for a long time. After counting them all, he asked KangYoon.

“You aren’t going to give this to me for free. So, what is it that you want?”

“I’ll get straight to the point. I ask for the copyrights to Kim JaeHoon’s songs.”

Hearing that, President Yoo MinSung became very angry.

“Wh... WHAT? Copyrights? With such a small amount of mone... GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!”

President Yoo MinSung’s voice rang across the whole office. However, KangYoon calmly talked back.

“Due to their characteristics, copyrights only give you a large sum of money in one go. In the case of Kim JaeHoon, the rights to his songs should be quite high compared to other singers, but the number of people looking for his songs decreased during the past few years due to his blank. I’m not 100% sure, but I believe that the income from his copyrights should be decreasing. Am I wrong?”

“That’s.... hm....”

KangYoon’s words weren’t wrong. President Yoo MinSung suppressed his anger. However, he still shook his head as though he was worried about something.

“Fuu, copyrights, you say. But.... Kim JaeHoon’s coyprights aren’t that cheap.”

President Yoo MinSung’s eyes sparkled again. He practically said ‘you got no more money?’. KangYoon immediately understood the implications.

Now, then. The real deal began.

“How about 70 million?”

“It’s a little low... but well, I’ll take it.”

President Yoo MinSung answered nonchalantly, but he was actually rejoicing on the inside. He got his hands on a large sum of money from something he practically gained for free. This was the best trade of his lifetime.

Seeing him excited, KangYoon spoke.

“Since we’re at it. I wish to create the contract right away.”

“That’s good with me! Right away.”

“I’ll talk to my employees to cancel all the lawsuits. Let us meet in better situations in the future.”

“Hahaha! Looks like I’ve made a mistake. I did not imagine that you were so easy to talk to.”

President Yoo MinSung reached out his hand towards KangYoon. KangYoon laughingly reached out to grab that hand.

“Let us do better in the future. Hahaha!”

“Me too, and don’t tell anything to Kim JaeHoon....”

“Isn’t that obvious? We’re of the same kind.”

President Yoo MinSung made a sneaky smile as though he knew everything. KangYoon also smiled, but inside, he detested the guy. From his attitude, he was convinced that this company wouldn’t last long.

After that, KangYoon handed over the money after signing the copyright transference contract.

With that, the rights to all of Kim JaeHoon’s songs now belonged to World Entertainment.

Kim JaeHoon was spending a spring that was hotter than anyone.

Going to get his hair done in early mornings was natural, and he was enduring a giant tsunami of TV programme recordings and other events.

“...Hyung, are you really okay?”

“It become endurable once you get used to it.”

“...Are you sure you’re human?”

Manager Kim DaeHyun, who spent his time looking after Kim JaeHoon in KangYoon’s stead experienced a weird event of his two cheeks becoming hollowed. Leaving for work under the stars and leaving work under the stars became his life now.

However, Kim JaeHoon was very satisfied with this kind of busy life. His body may have it hard, but he liked the fact that he could go on stage again.

“Walking next to you on the plains—”

“WAAAA—!”(cheering)

Achieving the feat of singing four more songs as service after his arranged four at a countryside art hall event, he rose as the new king of events.

While he spent his busy month of May, Kim JaeHoon suddenly received a summon from his company.

He had a very nice reunion with the members at the company, then sat down together with KangYoon. From the looks of it, KangYoon’s eyes had become strangely dark.

“President, are you hurt?”

“I stayed up last night for your songs.”

“Oh, yeah. That’s right.”

“Sheesh. Anyway, I called you here since I had something to talk about.”

KangYoon handed him a few sets of documents. Kim JaeHoon accepted the documents and soon smiled very brightly.

“Th, this! You got my copyrights back?”

“To be precise, I didn’t get them, but I bought them. With enough time, I may have been able to save some money, but you would have had it harder. I thought that it would be better to give him some more money and be done with it.”

“President....”

Kim JaeHoon was truly touched. His voice even sounded tearly. KangYoon shook his hand saying that it was alright.

“Now you really belong to World now, JaeHoon.”

“You’re right. I’ll never make you regret your investment in me.”

“Yeah, please.”

KangYoon patted Kim JaeHoon's shoulders. Kim JaeHoon's eyes were sparkling in determination as he nodded.

Park SoYoung picked up her guitar after a long time. During the past few years, she had the excuse of 'studying' to rarely pick up her guitar at all. However, she suddenly wanted to hear the clear sounds of her guitar today.

"The night of starlight.... Aaaah—"

With her guitar in hand, she opened up a random page of a thick book and played them randomly. Inside the tightly closed room, her guitar sounds rang out. Her voice as well as the sounds of her guitar filled her room and made her ears joyful.

However, the joy only lasted briefly. With an unpleasant sound, the thinnest string of her guitar snapped.

"Ah...."

Murphy's law, was it? Park SoYoung frowned. She didn't have a spare string either. In the end, she threw her guitar onto her bed and lied down.

"Nothing is to my liking."

She sighed deeply. Graduation and her future made her head complex. How good would it be if she only had one thing to think about... like entering college – she even thought of such nonsensical things.

[SoYoung, you should try giving your songs to my brother too.]

At that moment, HeeYoon's advice suddenly came up in her head. Her songs, eh....

'Now that I think about it, KangYoon-oppa's help was big even when I was preparing to enter college.'

Now that she thought about it, she never even thought about KangYoon, even though it would be practically impossible for her

to enter such a prestigious university without his help.

Park SoYoung jumped up from her bed.

‘Should I try?’

She stood up from her seat and took out a notebook with blank music scores in it. Then, she picked up her guitar again.

“Oh yeah... the string....”

However, she shook her head after seeing the snapped string and left her room. It was to buy a new one.

– Entertainer Hyun MinWoo, prosecuted for foreign gambling.

Actor Hyun MinWoo (aged 38) was prosecuted for foreign gambling. Mr. Hyun had gambled and lost hundreds of millions to billions of won (up to 1million USD) in countries such as the Phillipines, Macao, and the US.

(omitted)

The police are investigating further, looking for accomplices in this matter.

Quick news, rising phoenix.

Journalist Lee ChangYeon (T/N: Lee ChangYeon is the author’s name) ***

“Looks like this won’t end small.”

Sighed Lee HyunJi while looking at the news article on her monitor. Hyun MinWoo was quite a successful actor. With such a person causing an uproar, the online communities would stay bustling for quite a few days.

“But he’ll make it back.”

“He turned himself in after all. Although he might get some insults at the beginning, it should change later. I imagine you persuaded him the same way.”

“That’s right. Thanks to that, I was able to pressure President Yoo MinSung. He’s a rather thankful guy.”

“Looks like we helped each other. We prepared a trigger to get copyrights back from that guy, while Hyun MinWoo was liberated from Yoo MinSung’s threats. People should live a kind life.”

“Hyun MinWoo prepared the stage well. Though, if you think about it, this means that his resentment towards Yoo MinSung was quite big. In any case, Hyun MinWoo should have been threatened quite badly by that Yoo MinSung guy. On top of that, the loss of sense of judgement due to gambling addiction gave us even more room to work with. We got Kim JaeHoon’s copyrights for such a cheap price.”

KangYoon sighed in absurdity. He would never use the same tactic again.

Lee HyunJi was on his side, though.

“It’s his own fault. You set up the stage well. Thanks to that, we were able to toy with that Yoo MinSung easily. Actually, if your position was ‘Team Leader’ like in the past, this place would have been on fire. Otherwise, we would have had to fight for ages in court to get them back. We are short on money, so it would have been hard to hire a proper lawyer. In any case. All’s well that ends well.”

“That’s fortunate.”

Now that one big matter was over, KangYoon stood up from his seat feeling refreshed. Now, he didn’t have to concern himself with legal stuff and could concentrate solely on songs. KangYoon was relieved with just that.

Just as KangYoon was immersed in work, Jung HyeJin spoke to him.

“President, someone called Jay Han is here. He asked if you’re present.”

“Jay Han? Oh, him.”

A foreign Korean resident he met back in Korea ONE STAR. KangYoon was quite surprise by this call.

“What is it about?”

“Apparently, he got selected for the top 3 this round. And that’s why he’s here to thank you.”

“Really?”

KangYoon accepted. When asked when he would come, Jay Han replied that he would come within the next hour. KangYoon said okay and asked Jung HyeJin to clean the office.

Not long after, Jay Han entered World Entertainment. Lead by Jung HyeJin he entered the president’s office.

“Welcome. It’s been a while.”

“Hello composer!”

Jay Han’s expression was very bright. It looked as though he had become more handsome after overcoming the crisis of being dropped out. KangYoon also felt very good seeing him doing well.

Jay Han first handed him a set of tickets for Korea ONE STAR. Although the programme didn’t have reserved seats, the ticket was for VIPs at the front row.

“This is....”

“I’ve prepared enough. Come over and enjoy with your company.”

KangYoon was flabbergasted. These tickets were incredibly hard to get on the internet. KangYoon decided to give the tickets back, but Jay Han became serious and shook his head.

“How much do you think you did for me, composer? Actually, I wanted to work with you again this time, but the rules of the last round states that it has to be done with the mentor, so I couldn’t

help it.”

“Maybe there’s a next time. But I still wonder if I should accept these....”

“Without you, I would have never come to the finals. Please don’t feel bad accepting them.”

KangYoon hesitated a little before accepting the tickets. Looking at the date, all the members of his company would be able to participate if he rescheduled Kim JaeHoon’s events.

Jay Han’s voice was very excited. KangYoon listened to his story about the stages in eagerness. Perhaps it may have sounded like a teenage boy’s trivial story, but KangYoon didn’t miss any of it. Jay Han also seemed to have noticed that and was very humble.

After a long time, Jay Han stood up.

“Well, then composer. I’ll be on my way.”

“Be careful on your way back.”

KangYoon saw Jay Han out. Waving his hand, Jay Han spoke.

“Please write me a song when I get an official album out.”

“Hahaha, sure.”

“You promised! You did!”

Jay Han left the company after saying that multiples of times.

“Well, then. Should I get our schedules ready?”

KangYoon walked back inside his office with slow steps.

This was a very good opportunity to let everyone experience what the TV programme industry looked like.

Thinking about what he needed to do, KangYoon headed inside.

Chapter 105. On the Stage...

Returning to his office, KangYoon told Jung HyeJin to gather everyone practicing to the studio. KangYoon also headed to the studio along with Lee HyunJi.

10 minutes later.

With the exception of Kim JaeHoon, as well as manager Kim DaeHyun who was with him, everyone else gathered up at the studio. Professor Choi ChanYang, who was looking after Kim JiMin's vocal training was there as well.

“Professor, you can be at ease.”

Said KangYoon to Choi ChanYang who was about to get off his seat. He stood next to Kim JiMin with an awkward smile. Actually, he was curious as well – about how an entertainment company runs. He participated in this meeting just in case this may become of help in his future classes.

‘Why are we all gathered up here?’

‘If you don't know, why do you expect me to know?’

‘You're no fun.’

Kim JinDae replied jokingly to Lee ChaHee's question, but was ignored instead.

This was the first time everyone in the company gathered after the time Kim JaeHoon entered the company. Everyone was nervous because they might hear something heavy, while KangYoon took out the tickets that Jay Han gave him.

“I gathered you all up here to show you these.”

Lee HyunAh accepted them from KangYoon.

“Korea ONE STAR? Special seats? There are special seats for that thing!?”

Not just her, everyone else of White Moonlight was shocked. This was an invitation, and there was seating as well. Since Korea ONE STAR was open to the general public, the tickets were enough to shock them all.

Lee HyunJi added.

“Jay Han gave those to the president in appreciation. Viewing a large stage should be of help, and rest, to everyone. So you’re gathered here to reschedule your timelines.”

“Ooh.”

Everyone understood then. Everyone else other than White Moonlight didn’t even have to reschedule anything.

KangYoon spoke while looking at White Moonlight’s schedule.

“Let’s skip this Friday’s concert. We might have to pay a little bit of cancellation fee, but it’s better than missing something like this.”

When KangYoon said that, Lee HyunAh replied.

“We don’t have to pay the cancellation fee if another band takes our place. Shall I look into it?”

“Oh, yeah. You’re right. Then, can you take care of that?”

“Leave it to me. 8p.m. spot, right?”

“Yup. You guys will be short on time if you do the concert. Just take it as a day off.”

“Okay.”

They might be able to proceed with the concert if they pushed it, but KangYoon didn’t do that. This was different to Kim JaeHoon’s circumstances.

But then, Kim JiMin asked as though she had thought of something.

“Sir, what of JaeHoon-oppa then?”

“I looked at his schedule, and he’s going to be nearby at that time. I think I’ll just tell him to come.”

Just as Kim JiMin was about to ask something else, Lee HyunAh patted and rubbed on her head.

“Wow, pretty. Looking after your oppa now?”

“Ah, hey.”

Everyone burst into laughter seeing the two act like sisters.

These days, the entertainment industry was a hot potato.

Waves of disturbance arose from actor Hyun MinWoo’s foreign gambling incident, while President Yoo MinSung was living very uncomfortably every day.

– GOD DAMMIIIIIT!

No object was safe inside the president’s room at his company.

The workers there all bit their lips in terror.

“Vice-chief, I might get a heart attack at this rate.”

“Ms. IHan, I understand what you mean, but.....”

“I apologize. I think I’ll quit the company after today.”

The female employee couldn’t win against her boss’s madness and ended up resigning. She poured out insults as she left.

Regardless, the president’s office was still full of loud voices.

“Whew, I should quit soon too....”

Just as the female employee left, the door suddenly burst open and two men entered. The two just showed their identification and asked.

“We’re from Gangnam police station. Are you perhaps Mr. Yoo MinSung?”

He gulped. Then he pointed towards the president’s office, where

sounds of things breaking could be heard frequently. The two men entered the room without saying anything.

“What the, who the hell are you two? huh?”

The male employee quietly packed his stuff. He judged that there was nothing left here for him. She was right. Screw salary, staying at a shitty company like this was sheer stupidity.

“Hey! Where are you all! Get these guys off me! Hey!”

Shouted President Yoo MinSung as he was dragged away, but there was no one left there to listen to him.

Everyone at World Entertainment got on a van in order to go watch the final stage of Korea ONE STAR. Kim JinDae spoke when KangYoon naturally got on the driver's seat.

“President, I'll be the one to drive.”

“It's fine. Where do you see a president making their entertainer drive?”

“But you're the president....”

“I said it's fine. Get on.”

KangYoon turned on the car saying that he was fine. Lee HyunJi got on the assistant's seat, while the back seats were filled with the entertainers of the company, Jung HyeJin and professor Choi HanYang. There were almost no empty seats at all.

“Still quite small I see.”

Spoke Lee HyunJi while looking through the rearview mirror. She still found the company rather disappointing in terms of scale. However, KangYoon consoled her.

“The scale will get big soon. What's important is the infrastructure.”

“That's true.”

With everyone excited, the car departed. It had been a long time since everyone had gathered up together, so the van was filled with chatter. Kim JiMin and Lee HyunAh were especially talkative. Kim JiMin asked Lee HyunAh a lot about musical stuff, and Lee HyunAh did her best to tell her what she could.

At the front, KangYoon and Lee HyunJi were discussing about what to do in the future. Lee HyunJi spoke while looking at the timeline on her phone.

“Looks like we’ll get our concert hall earlier than we think thanks to JaeHoon’s efforts.”

“About two months, right?”

“If we push it, then even earlier is fine. There’s a good place out right now. I’m considering paying the contract fee, so have a look at it later.”

“Got it.”

The venue for the final stage of Korea ONE STAR was about 30 minutes away by car. Since they received invitations, parking was not hard. KangYoon and co. parked at a place where celebrity vans (T/N: Vans with really dark windows...) didn’t enter via the front door, but they went through the back door which were used by organizers and entertainers.

“Wow....”

Kim JiMin’s jaws dropped at the enormous scale. This stage was probably enough to host 10,000 people at minimum. White Moonlight was the same in their shock.

KangYoon lead everyone and sat at the front where the special seats were.

Not long later, Kim JaeHoon and manager Kim DaeHyun arrived as well. As though it was timed, the other seats started being filled as well.

Time passed like that until the lights lighting the seats darkened and the stage lights turned on.

“Ladies and Gentlemen! Welcome to the final stage of Korea ONE STAR!”

“(cheering)”

The cheering of 10,000 people was a scene in itself.

‘Wow.’

Kim JiMin felt electrified even though the cheers weren’t directed at her.

As expected of the final stage, all the stages were splendid. Although this was the ‘final stage’, there were consolation stages for those who dropped out earlier, as well as from the judges.

‘So cool.’

Kim JiMin enjoyed what she saw. She found it very fun to watch the stages while whispering with Lee HyunAh next to her.

After all that, the finals for Korea ONE STAR finally began.

“...Let us finally meet; the strongest competitor who rose from 1st on the dropout list to the top of the lineup! Everyone’s favorite! The magical voice from the US! Jay HAAAAAN!”

“(Cheeering)”

Enormous cheers erupted just for one person. This was incomparable to what other people received before this stage.

Kim JiMin’s heart thumped. She naturally knew that this was not directed at her, but her heart was jumping anyway.

‘If only I could be there....’

It was such a pity. If she didn’t drop out, but was picked, she could have been the character on that stage – she gripped her fists subconsciously.

A charming voice tickled her ears, but she couldn’t listen to it

closely.

– I loved you— but you—

“I LOVED YOUUUU—“(audience)

Regardless of what she felt, the rest of the audience sang along with the magical voice and became one. The families of World Entertainment had all become one with the audience.

“He’s good.”

“Tell me about it.”

Both Lee HyunJi and KangYoon praised the stage. Kim JaeHoon also praised. Though, they didn’t scream like the rest of the audience. Perhaps this was a part of their job. The band members of White Moonlight were all excited and promised to get signatures later. Though, Lee ChaHee shut them all down saying that it bothered her....

After the song, the judges were full of compliments; say nothing of the scores. As expected of the finals, the scores were above the top.

The following stages were the same. They couldn’t be called ‘amateur’ singers anymore.

‘If only I could be on that stage....’

Kim JiMin’s eyes were on fire as she watched them.

“And the winner! Is! JAAAAAY HAAAAN!”

Along with a loud fanfare, Jay Han was congratulated as the winner by the other competitors. His eyes were full of tears. While everyone cheered in congratulation, he had a hard time grabbing the microphone due to the sudden surge in emotion.

“Oh... Th, thanks everyone.”

After that, Jay Han couldn’t continue easily.

This was his victory, and now that he achieved it, he felt as though power drained from his feet. The presenter urged him on, while the rest of the audience consoled him. Only then did he calm down. He was able to grab the microphone again.

“F, first. I thank my....”

Talking about the people he met on his journey here, as well as his parents, he wiped the tears on his face. He couldn't talk easily as though his heart was still jumping, when he dragged on for too long, the presenter was about to cut him off. At that time, he suddenly thought of something and quickly added.

“Oh, yeah! A very important person! The composer that enabled me to take victory! Composer Lee KangYoon! You're the best! Oh yeah! I love you! THanks so much!”

At those words, the members of World Entertainment all took a glance at KangYoon. KangYoon blinked several times in embarrassment.

“Huh?”

“Oho?”

The one who spoke first was Lee HyunAh.

“I knew that your songsg were good... but it feels different hearing that from another person. Fufu.”

Kim JaeHoon wasn't that much different to Lee HyunAh. He knew that KangYoon's songs were good from working with him, but now that other people approved of him as well, his eyes changed.

“I knew it, I wasn't wrong about him.”

For singers, the desire for good songs was beyond imagination, they all looked at KangYoon with burning eyes.

KangYoon scratched his cheek in awkwardness.

‘I guess I got free PR.’

He was thankful for Jay Han who practically advertised him for free.

After the stage, KangYoon headed to Jay Han's waiting room with Kim JiMin, this was because Kim JiMin requested KangYoon that she wanted to meet with Jay Han!

“Composer!”

As soon as KangYoon entered, Jay Han gave KangYoon a big hug. KangYoon patted Jay's back.

“Well done.”

“It's all thanks to you. I really mean it!”

Jay Han's voice was still excited as though his excitement hadn't calmed down.

KangYoon explained that a trainee at his company wanted to see him. Jay Han said okay and told Kim JiMin to sit down.

Kim JiMin asked him a lot of things as though she was curious about a lot of things. Although she was usually quiet, she was unstoppable once she was into something. Despite that, Jay Han replied every single question without becoming impatient.

Listening to their conversation, KangYoon took out his phone.

‘That should have been all live. Would I get more work? I don't think I'll be able to digest all of that. Should I get a support?’

Just as KangYoon was hesitating, Kim JiMin asked Jay Han about what he did in preparation for the final stage. As expected of a girl full of curiosity, she didn't stop asking. KangYoon cut her off at a suitable point and stood up.

“JiMin. Let's go.”

“Sorry? But....”

“Everyone's waiting outside.”

“Oh.... Yes.”

Kim JiMin pouted. However, KangYoon was merciless. Jay Han should be tired after the stage, and it was still amazing that he gave her this amount of time.

“I’m fine.”

“No, let us meet again later.”

“I’ll ask you for a song when I release an album later, okay?”

KangYoon nodded and left the waiting room.

Kim JiMin was silent as she left. As though in deep thought, she didn’t have any expression on her face as well.

“Follow me.”

KangYoon didn’t lead her outside, but inside. Kim JiMin thought that she was about to get scolded for her actions and followed KangYoon with drooped shoulders.

However, the place KangYoon headed was the hall where the stage was being dismantled.

“Go up there.”

“Sorry?”

“I said, try going up there.”

Kim JiMin walked up the stage per KangYoon’s words. Leaving people busy with dismantling behind her back. She looked at KangYoon.

“Look at the audience seats. How is it?”

“It’s wide. And there’s a lot too.”

This was a hall that could hold 10,000 people. Of course it was wide.

“Today, these people all came here to watch the finals of Korea ONE STAR. Such a number of people spent their own time and money to come watch the stage.”

“Yes. There were a lot of people, all cheering....”

Kim JiMin looked down at KangYoon quite calmly. KangYoon watched her with observant eyes.

“Be honest me. You were quite envious today, weren’t you?”

“...Yes.”

“You were jealous, weren’t you?”

“.....”

Kim JiMin bit her lips since KangYoon asked such an obvious question. She couldn’t possibly say that she was jealous of the people who were on stage today. The reason she asked KangYoon if she could meet Jay Han was also because she wanted to know what kind of people got to stand on such a stage.

As though he knew what she was thinking, KangYoon calmly spoke.

“It’s natural for a singer to aspire for such a large stage. The number of audience is the power of a singer. I wish you could become a singer that could host such a number of people as audience without much effort. And I intend to make you one.”

“.....”

“It’s not that I don’t know how you feel. You must be jealous. Jealousy may motivate you, but it may also ruin you. After all, it makes people overdo things. The things you are learning and doing right now are definitely not basic things. No, I dare say that trainees at other companies don’t get learning opportunities like you do.”

Kim JiMin gulped at KangYoon’s words that contained his conviction. Until now, he never told her something like this. Even when he got her a house for her and her grandmother to live in. His words were without exaggeration.

“I am preparing all that I can in order to make the trainee Kim

JiMin a top-tier singer. You are doing well right now. I want you to be not shaken by other things.”

After saying that, KangYoon left on his own. He implied her to clear up her thoughts before she followed. At that time, Kim JiMin spoke.

“I’m definitely not unsatisfied with my current curriculum. It’s just.... I was envious... How could I possibly resent you? You’re my savior. It looks like I was in a hurry. I’m sorry.”

“No, you can be in a hurry. It looks like seeing other stages do help a lot, making you think about things like that. Looks like you aren’t an easy one either, eh? Thinking about a 10,000 people stage already.”

KangYoon laughed. Normally, seeing a singer that could host such a large amount of people would terrorize a trainee, not provoke one. Jealousy was something for people in a similar situation. KangYoon didn’t think about this too badly.

When it seemed that Kim JiMin’s thoughts were about cleared up, KangYoon lead her out.

“Well, then. Looks like we made people waiting. Shall we go?”

“Yes.”

KangYoon lead the way out. Kim JiMin followed suit.

‘10,000 people? I’ll definitely do it. On my own.’

Leaving the hall, Kim JiMin had a look back at the stage. Imagining such a large amount of people gathering solely to watch her, she felt excited already.

“Hey, wait for me.”

...Though, she had to run in order to catch up to KangYoon.

Chapter 106. Ease is Power!

“It’s not bad.”

Said Professor Choi ChanYang as he praised the song that Park SoYoung brought him. The feel of the song, accompanied by a piano, was pretty good.

Park SoYoung finally calmed down her nervousness with a sigh.

“Phew. That’s good. I thought about HyunAh-unni as I wrote this. Is it really okay?”

“I think it will suit her well. The bass line is especially good, but the chord progression is a little....”

Professor Choi ChanYang pointed out a part played by the electric guitar. Although the bass line was good, the electric guitar part was too showy, and suggested her to edit it slightly. Park SoYoung understood what he meant and nodded.

“I understand. Thank you for your guidance.”

“Okay. Come again anytime if you need any help.”

“Oh, yes. Now that I think about it; can I submit this to somewhere other than my graduation exam?”

“Another place? Where?”

When he asked, Park SoYoung replied after a little bit of hesitation.

“I... thought of taking this to KangYoon-oppa.”

“You want to sell your song to him?”

Professor Choi ChanYang became very curious. He even had a slight smile on his face.

“That would be... good, but... actually, no. Who would buy my song? I shouldn’t have said that. Sorry.”

She thought that she said something rude since Professor Choi

ChanYang was always so nice. She shook her head and turned around to leave. Just then, Professor Choi ChanYang kindly spoke.

“You’re afraid of being judged.”

“.....”

Bullseye. Professor Choi ChanYang added.

“But if it’s him, he should be able to tell you what level your composition is at. If I were you, I would prioritize showing my work to him rather than the graduation exam. Being examined within college is like judging the sky from the bottom of a well. Moreover, Mr. KangYoon has a good eye for these kind of things.”

Park SoYoung did not reply and left after a greeting.

‘Being judged, huh....’

The bottom of the well contrast did not leave Park SoYoung’s head for a long time. Her hesitations continued into her classes as well.

Springtime is warm, usually. However, to Kim JaeHoon, his spring this year was hotter than anyone.

“Whew.... I guess I’ll say goodbye to this hellish schedule for a while after today.”

Inside the car with KangYoon, Kim JaeHoon ended up laying down on the seat as he muttered.

“That’s right. Thanks for all your hard effort, earning all that contract fee back for us.”

“I never imagined I would have earned 1.5 billion won (about 1.5 million USD) all in one month.”

“Didn’t I tell you that you’ll experience hell?”

Kim JaeHoon now had a headache from all those hellish events. He practically visited every place in the country. Jeju island,

Land's End, and even the frontlines where North Korea could be seen – KangYoon did not leave any one of them out. What was even more frightening was his driving skills. His awesome skills lead Kim JaeHoon not being late to schedule even once.

Kim JaeHoon gulped down a bottle of water that was on the back seat.

“But it looks like I’ll say goodbye to events for a while. This is rather sad on its own?”

“Hahaha, that’s how people are. What? I could get you some more if you want to.”

“I’ll have to decline. I’m no robot. Rather than that, I want to record the song I heard at the house quickly.”

“Okay okay. But the release date will be scheduled along with the concert hall date. Keep that in mind.”

“Got it.”

Now that he was liberated of all of his burdens, Kim JaeHoon’s expression was very bright. He could not focus on singing without any debt or burden to his heart.

Arriving at an event venue in Daejeon, Kim JaeHoon immediately went on stage after preparing himself. The staff there all had sparkly eyes as they knew that he was coming. Although Kim JaeHoon was the type of singer liked by the male populace, there were naturally female fans as well.

After about 40 minutes of performance, KangYoon and Kim JaeHoon immediately got back on the car and moved to Seoul. In the evening, he had another concert at a concert hall near a university, and after that was his final schedule for the day, an interview with a man’s magazine.

Time flowed by in a flash.

Kim JaeHoon waited at a cafe after the concert at the university.

Soon, a female editor from a magazine company and a cameraman arrived. After a brief introduction, the interview began.

“I didn’t even release an album. Is it really fine for you to interview me already?”

When he asked in a joking tone, the female editor smiled awkwardly while fixing her thick glasses.

“Usually, no. But the interest of the people is on you, Mr. Kim JaeHoon. We are a magazine company with a major male audience, so I thought that it would be good to have your interview on board.”

“Okay. Then, what. Should I start with my secrets of being successful?”

“Hahaha. I’ll appreciate it if you do.”

The mood was very lively. The female editor’s sharp eyes looked slightly scary, but she had a knack for calming the mood down. She calmly dragged out stories from Kim JaeHoon, especially about the past 4 years, during which he spent nightmarish days. The main topic was about how he overcame this crisis.

After a bit of thought, Kim JaeHoon spoke calmly.

“Maybe it’s because... I met a good person?”

“A person?”

The female editor showed interest and jotted things down while recording the entire interview. Kim JaeHoon calmly continued.

“I was in a serious conflict with my previous company. In the end, I was forced to pay the cancellation fee, and was burdened with debt ever since time. Then, I did my military service in disappointment, but nothing much changed even after I went there. The person who saved me at that time is my current president.”

This wasn’t an answer that the female editor wanted. She wanted

an answer like “I held on to the best of my ability” or something along those lines. And naturally, she induced him to say so.

“But didn’t you put in a lot of effort to come back?”

“Of course, I practiced every day. To a singer, practice is life.”

“Oh, so in the end, your secret is to prepare for your comeback every day.”

“I guess that’s true, but actually... in my case, it’s my president’s deeds.”

Kim JaeHoon turned his head towards KangYoon. KangYoon shrugged his shoulders when Kim JaeHoon looked at him. Kim JaeHoon only laughed.

The female editor asked as though this was quite strange.

“This distance shouldn’t be enough for him to listen. Looks like you really admire your president.”

“Yes. He taught me a lot of things. Unlike my previous president.”

“Your former president, oh. It’s foreign gambling incident.”

“Yoo MinSung.... At that time, I thought I could become successful as long as I could sing well, but he painfully made me realize how important the people around me were. Unlike him, who invested the money I earned him into gambling, my current president invests his money into new singers, and enables them to sing better songs.”

“Is that promoting your company?”

“Hahaha, can I ask you to do it?”

“I’ll think about it if you buy me coffee today.”

The female editor smirked. Kim JaeHoon took out his credit card. He implied her to promote World Entertainment.

Now, Kim JaeHoon was a proper entertainer solely belonging to

World Entertainment.

After the interview, Kim JaeHoon was about to take the bill, but the female editor took it from him.

“Where do you see an editor that let’s an interviewee pay?”

She left the cafe first saying that he didn’t need to worry about promotion.

After the interview, KangYoon approached Kim JaeHOon.

“Thanks for all your hard work. You’re now free.”

“You too, president. Wow... I finally get to rest tomorrow. It feels quite strange, you know?”

“Now, you’ll have to work on your songs while resting. If we can release the album with this kind of current public opinion, we should be able to get good results. I’ll go get the car.”

KangYoon patted Kim JaeHoon’s back and left the cafe.

“Hyung, thank you.”

Muttered Kim JaeHoon as he saw KangYoon’s sturdy back.

Lee HyunJi, who was visiting estate agents around Yeonnam-dong looking for a building that can be used as a concert hall, was currently heading to one such building that was out for sale.

“The price is a little steep, but the location is pretty good....”

It was not far from a subway station, and it was easily accessible by foot as well. Moreover, as this was an urgent sale, the price was lowered quite a lot. Though, it was still expensive considering World Entertainment’s current finances. Lee HyunJi still deemed this to be suitable.

“No one’s contracted yet, right?”

“Some people are eyeing it out, but I don’t know if they will.”

“Okay, I’ll have a talk to my president.”

Lee HyunJi considered this building a suitable candidate and returned to the office. When she returned, KangYoon, who was currently guiding Kim JiMin, was working at the office. (T/N: How does that work... it doesn’t make sense in Korean either) “Did you have a look at the hall?”

“Yes. Although the price is a little expensive. It was by far the best among the ones we saw thus far.”

“Really? Shall we go right away?”

KangYoon immediately left the company. Although Lee HyunJi had to leave as soon as she arrived, she did not complain.

The two people had a look at the building with the estate agent, but this time in detail. Such as the height of the ceiling, the area of the hall, as well as accessibility. KangYoon was especially interested in the number of audience it could hold.

“How is it?”

KangYoon nodded after a bit of hesitation.

“It’s suitable. As for the price....”

When KangYoon said that, the estate agent interfered.

“The price can be negotiated. Since this was put on urgent sale, if you talk with the owner directly....”

Hearing that, Lee HyunJi stepped in.

“Oh, is that true? How much do you think we can shave if we get it today?”

“If you get the contract done today....”

The estate agent quickly talked about the price. It was pretty obvious that he had talked to the owner beforehand. However, Lee HyunJi was dissatisfied with the answer.

“There’s no merit even though if we get the contract done today.

President, should we look into some more?”

“Okay, then. Can you give me a business card?”

KangYoon received a business card from the estate agent and turned around. He told him that he would come back after negotiating with the owner.

After returning to the company, the two began their respective work again. KangYoon guided Kim JiMin in the studio, while Lee HyunJi took care of administrative work and scheduling White Moonlight and Kim JaeHoon’s timelines.

During this past month, Kim JiMin received almost no guidance from KangYoon, and due to that, she was receiving spartan education right now.

“I, it’s so hard....”

“It is. Let’s have a look at it again. Although it’s not on the score, try playing it with a sus-4 chord. That part brings liveliness to the song. There, try again.”

“Okay....”

Kim JiMin was almost about to cry as she played the guitar. After almost a month of waiting, KangYoon’s education was very hard. Despite that, she felt that she was learning something and did her best to follow.

Just as she was focusing on learning, two people opened the door to the studio and entered. They were Professor Choi ChanYang and Park SoYoung.

“Professor, you’re here.”

“Hello, Mr. KangYoon. And hello to you too.”

“Hello.”

KangYoon declared a bit of rest. Kim JiMin headed to the preparation room saying that she would get some coffee. Park SoYoung followed suit.

“You’re here with SoYoung today?”

“Yeah. I chanced upon her on my way here. She has business with you, apparently.”

“She does? What kind of...?”

“She’ll say it herself.”

Soon, Kim JiMin and Park SoYoung brought coffee. The four people talked about various things while drinking; about university, about practice, as well as other things. This was a rest time after all.

After everyone emptied their cuppas, Professor Choi ChanYang spoke to Kim JiMin.

“JiMin, shall we go practice?”

“Okay.”

“I told you last time that you can’t just top midway, right? Let’s see how much you improved on that.”

Kim JiMin was nervous as she left the studio with Professor Choi ChanYang. The two headed to the practice room.

Only Park SoYoung and KangYoon were left in the studio.

“Uhm.... oppa.”

“You had business with me?”

“Yes.”

She carefully took out a score and a USB. KangYoon received the USB and put it on his PC. When he played the song that was in it, a song flowed out.

“It wasn’t recorded in a studio.”

“I don’t have that kind of money... haha.”

While the music played, Park SoYoung laughed awkwardly. The speaker contained a guitar progression along with Park SoYoung’s

voice.

– I could still run, but why do people —

It was a light-paced yet powerful song. Even though this was just a classical guitar and a voice, the power could be felt. However, KangYoon tilted his head.

‘The light is weak.’

Perhaps this was because there was no arrangement done, or it was for some another reason. It seemed that he had to listen to this live in order to judge for sure.

“SoYoung, can you play it to me?”

“Play? Live?”

“Yup.”

She hesitated a little seeing that KangYoon was so adamant. But soon, she picked up her guitar.

– But in my heart — I engrave my love — and on your heart — Park SoYoung closed her eyes and started singing. The light-paced guitar sounds made her heart flutter. The song became more powerful due to that.

KangYoon focused his eyes on Park SoYoung’s musical note and the guitar’s notes. This was very pleasing to the ear. However....

‘I knew it. It’s still weak.’

What was it that was lacking? This was definitely a good song, but the influence was a little weak. It was like this was a song that you would listen to only once. Maybe it would change if other instruments came into play, but right now, the feeling was just ‘okay, and?’-like feeling.

The song ended.

“Uhm.... How... was I?”

KangYoon replied to her careful question.

Chapter 107. Ease is Power! (2)

“It’s easy to follow.”

KangYoon started to judge the song.

“I... is that so?”

“Yeah. It’s easy to the ear. There’s no sense of rejection from the melody.

Park SoYoung heaved a deep sigh of relief as she was nervous after hearing what HeeYoon said about her songs. ‘Easy to follow’ was one of the most vague statements ever. It was neither a compliment nor a criticism.

“Is this rock?”

“Yes.”

“And in my opinion, you thought of HyunAh as you wrote this.”

“That’s right. You realized already?”

“I get the feeling that this is just suited for her. The bass line is very good. The thudding sounds very good. The chord progression is also nice. However.”

Park SoYoung gulped. This was the important bit.

“This is too weak for HyunAh to sing. In my opinion, I think you should raise the accents a little. Although this doesn’t give any feeling of rejection, it’s like... it’s too easy. HyunAh has the tendency to burst all her power in one go after building up, and I think she’ll find something like this, which is flat all the way to the end, quite hard to sing.”

“Oooh....”

“If I have to speak generally, it’s easy. You said that this song was for HyunAh, but I have a feeling that anyone can digest this song. However, my opinion is that singers with characteristic voices will

reject this song.”

After listening to KangYoon’s words, Park SoYoung nodded. She now understood a little about what she had to change. She took the score back again.

“Thanks for your time.”

“No, you’re HeeYoon’s friend. This much is nothing.”

“How important do you think it is to have my work evaluated by someone who actually works in the industry? I’ll treat you to something later.”

“Okay, okay.”

KangYoon saw Park SoYoung off with a smile.

At the front door of World Entertainment, Park SoYoung asked for one last time.

“Uhm, oppa. If it were you, Would you... buy my song?”

At the careful question, KangYoon also replied with caution after thinking for a while.

“If you are referring to that song, then I will indeed.”

“Really? I think there’s something more to that.”

Hearing that, Park SoYoung’s expression brightened. However, KangYoon had something more to say.

“Then, I will hand it over to a really skilled arranger. The melody’s good after all. I will have to find an arranger who can bring out the liveliness from the song. It would be a different story if you were the one to arrange it yourself, but with your current skills... I’m not sure if I’m able to leave it up to you.”

“Oh... I get it. Okay. Looks like I must study harder.”

Park SoYoung bowed towards KangYoon. Although this was the brother of her friend, she appreciated the fact that KangYoon was kind enough to do all this for her. Although his evaluation today

was a burden on her heart, she was still thankful since she now knew what she could improve upon.

“I heard that composers have their own special traits. In the case of HeeYoon, she writes things down even while doing something else if she thinks of something. If that doesn’t work, she holes herself up at home and works on stuff. She told me that there are just ‘right times’ for these things. But I don’t think you’re such type.”

“Yes. I have to squeeze my head for three whole days to get something. Nothing just ‘comes’ to me incidentally.”

“Well, it differs according to the person. Fufu, you two have completely different styles. Well, I guess that should be the case. And also, I think your strongest advantage is that your pieces are ‘easy’.”

“Being easy is an advantage...?”

Park SoYoung had a hard time understanding what KangYoon meant. Having understood that, KangYoon explained it for her.

“You can create melodies that anyone can easily follow. I think that’s an enormous advantage. Composition isn’t the end you know? There’s the arrangement process later. Next time, bring me a piece with arrangement done as well. Though, arrangement isn’t as easy as composition, right?”

“Sure.”

“Ease is power. After all, it means that you can write melodies that are pleasing to the ear. The advantage is that anyone can easily sing along. If you can use that well, I think you’ll become a splendid composer.”

“Ooh.... Okay. Thank you so much.”

She received practical guidance that would be hard to hear from anyone else. Although this was her friend’s brother, she didn’t expect this much from him. She was very appreciative of

KangYoon.

After she left saying that she'll work on it more, KangYoon stretched his arms out.

“Let me get back to work too then.”

The brief rest time was now over. Mountains of work was waiting for him.

‘Ease is power... a melody easy to follow?’

Having returned home, Park SoYoung reminded herself of KangYoon's words over and over again.

‘Okay, let's make my future songs like that.’

On the back seat of the bus, she decided on her style as a composer.

An advice from KangYoon was now creating a future composer.

“The Rock Festival?”

Jung HyeJin blinked her eyes several times while looking at the application form that KangYoon gave him.

“Yes. The deadline is Friday, so please do it by today.”

It was very rare for KangYoon to order things directly. Jung HyeJin immediately accepted and got the documents from KangYoon.

Lee HyunJi asked while turning around in her chair.

“White Moonlight's popularity should work, right?”

“It will suffice with her popularity among indies. And it's about time too.”

“About time... oh, you mean?”

There was only one ‘time’ that KangYoon could mean: going

mainstream from being indie. Lee HyunJi's prediction was correct and he continued speaking.

“Once we finish the contract with a concert hall, we'll open it in autumn, and White Moonlight's entrance to mainstream media will also begin then. The Rock Festival will be the beginning of that.”

“Well, that's true. The Rock Festival is gaining popularity nowadays, so it will be the perfect opportunity to raise their popularity.”

“That's right. If spring was hot thanks to JaeHoon, we'll have a hot summer thanks to them.”

KangYoon shook his head. His springtime with Kim JaeHoon was indeed very 'hot'. As compensation, he now had sufficient finances, and he was now going to drag White Moonlight to mainstream media.

“Then who will it be in autumn then? JiMin?”

“I think we'll have to wait some more for JiMin. It's not like we're lacking funds right now. I think that we should wait some more and polish her properly.”

“Looks like we'll have a frightening singer on hand in the future. She was already scary when I peeked at her practice with Seonbae (t/n: the prof). I like this. I feel like our company is finally starting to take shape.”

Lee HyunJi felt good. Considering the hard times she had thanks to the troubles with the singers as well as the pressure of finances, it was now much more stable. There was Kim JaeHoon, who was earning them money, as well as White Moonlight, who was steadily gaining popularity. KangYoon was also earning money with his songs, so the state of the company was now much more stable.

However, KangYoon shook his head saying that there was still

much to go.

“This is just the beginning. It’s still too dangerous to rely on Kim JaeHoon alone. And we also have to host a concert, so we have to save up for that as well.”

“A concert? With our current finances, a country-wide tour is too much of a stretch.”

“We’ll only do it once or twice in Seoul. But, we definitely have to do the end-of-year one. To do that, we’ll have to save up for it. It’s also what JaeHoon wants to do, too.”

“Looks like my holiday season this year will be spent at the company.”

Pouted Lee HyunJi slightly. However, she was very happy about it.

KangYoon left her behind and headed towards the practice room that White Moonlight was in.

“You don’t know — what I’ll say — my tears fall – on my -cold cheeks –”

When KangYoon opened the door, Lee HyunAh’s powerful voice was filling the room.

‘Is this a new song?’

KangYoon crossed his arms while looking at the multicolored musical notes make white light. The low-pitched distortion from the electric guitar was especially showy.

“To me — nothing –”

Lee HyunAh was drunk on singing. The yellow musical note coming from her was accenting the white light.

‘Not bad.’

The light was not bad. The sounds all harmonized quite suitably, and ended like that.

“Fuah. Hello.”

Greeted Lee HyunAh in everyone’s place. KangYoon waved his hand.

“Can you gather around for a sec?”

Everyone put down their instruments and gathered in front of him. Since KangYoon wasn’t seen much these days due to work, everyone was nervous.

“There’s a Rock Festival in August.”

“Wait, wait a minute. Isn’t that the one held in Goyang?”

Lee HyunAh reacted to the words ‘Rock Festival’. The rest of the members all widened their eyes too.

“Are we going there?”

At Lee ChaHee’s question, KangYoon nodded his head.

“Yup. We’ll turn in the application form today, and unless something special happens, you’ll all go there.”

“Wow!”

All of White Moonlight shouted in joy. The Rock Festival was known to have the largest audience reactions among all the concerts in the country. There were even rumors that singers on the stage there received healing from the audience. And now, they were about to go on it. They each gave each other high-fives.

KangYoon spoke after they calmed down a little.

“You’ll get busy from now on. We were given one hour in the Rock Festival. That means, this is an hour long concert. This is a different story to last time, where you shared the stage with other singers.”

Seeing them excited, KangYoon cautioned them. They were still young. Although youth was good, too much excitement would lead to mistakes. KangYoon wanted to avoid such mistakes. Everyone

noded in understanding.

“After the Rock Festival, it will be autumn, which is when we’ll open our all concert hall. A month after that, you’ll go mainstream.”

“WHAAT?”

Everyone’s voices got loud again at his declaration. They were shocked.

“We... are all... going... together... right?”

When Kim JinDae asked, KangYoon spoke as though it was obvious.

“You’ll go on stage as White Moonlight.”

Implying that they were obviously going as a team. Hearing that, Lee ChaHee poked Kim JinDae’s side.

‘Are you dumb? Don’t you know how good our president is?’

‘No, it’s not that....’

‘Stop your bullshit.’

In the end, Kim JinDae dropped after being scolded by Lee ChaHee.

KangYoon spoke in detail about their future schedules. He talked about how they no longer needed to worry about having a stage, and that they should take care of their appearances in preparation for going mainstream. At that, Kim JinDae muttered something but was poked again by Lee ChaHee on his side.

After telling them everything he needed to, KangYoon left the practice room. But then, Lee HyunAh followed him out.

“Do you have something to talk about?”

“No.... Just... thank you.”

“For what?”

“Just.... For letting us all do music together. If this was some other place, it would have been unimaginable.”

Rock Festival as well as going mainstream.

Lee HyunAh found all of this unrealistic when KangYoon said this to her. She felt excited as each of his words were being fulfilled.

Regardless, KangYoon just shrugged his shoulders.

“Sheesh. It was a promise, wasn’t it? Also, you don’t have to thank me just yet. Just earn me a lot of money before you thank me.”

“Fufu, okay then.”

Lee HyunAh made a blissful smile while looking at KangYoon turning around.

Company work in the day, and arrangement during the night.

KangYoon was spending a very busy life. These days, or nights, he was working on Kim JaeHoon’s song that HeeYoon had sent him.

‘Should I add some percussion here?’

He switched out the drum sounds with another percussion, but the light was still weak. No matter how great it was when played by the piano alone, there was no meaning if it wasn’t any good after the arrangement. Just like how it was now.

‘That’s strange. It didn’t feel like this when HeeYoon gave it to me. Did I do something wrong?’

KangYoon listened to the sounds and tilted his head. He felt as though the light had become weaker since the start. Although a series of musical notes was in his vision, it was not to his satisfaction.

“Hyung. Oh, you’re working.”

Kim JaeHoon entered his room, but turned back to leave seeing that he was working. But then, KangYoon told him to stay.

“Oh, it’s fine. Wait a sec.”

“You need me?”

“Yeah. JaeHoon. What do you think of when you sing a song about breaking up?”

“Breaking up? Hmm.... It doesn’t make me sad even if I think of my ex-girlfriend. Instead, I think about my mom.”

“Mom?”

“I just want to see her when I think about her. Breaking up is like not being able to see even though you want to see her. That’s why I think about my mom.”

“Oooh, that’s right. I’m trying to bring that kind of feeling out from the melody, but I’m getting nowhere right now.”

“Really? Should I have a look then?”

KangYoon played back the bits that he had arranged until now. This was the introductory bit and a part of the first verse. Kim JaeHoon stepped according to the rhythm but then tilted his head after a while.

“I’m not sure since there’s no lyrics right now, but it doesn’t give me the right feeling. I think adding an explosive feeling at the beginning would be good.”

“An explosive feeling?”

“Yeah. It starts out very calm with the piano, doesn’t it? I think that will make people sleepy. What about you just burst it all out in the beginning? That will make the song less boring....”

“Hm.....”

KangYoon started editing the song again. He played back the

melody and combined various synthesizer sounds as well. The keyboard sounds and the synths loudly rung out in the room.

A while later.

“Let’s do this again.”

KangYoon played back the song. As Kim JaeHoon had said, the bursting feeling at the beginning was quite strong.

‘Grey....’

However, he shook his head. However, Kim JaeHoon behind him had sparkly eyes saying that it was good.

“This is it.”

“What?”

KangYoon was shocked. Grey was good? Something seemed to be wrong here.

“This kind of feeling. Very explosive and good.”

“R... really?”

“Yes. I think we should go with this.”

Kim JaeHoon seemed to have taken a liking to the changed beginning and drowned himself in the melody.

‘This... isn’t good....’

KangYoon started pondering about what to do with the song.

Chapter 108. Go? Or No Go? (1)

“Bursting out at this part isn’t so bad. Should I switch things out a little?”

“How?”

Kim JaeHoon showed curiosity towards KangYoon’s work. Kim JaeHoon knew about compositions as well, and that was why this was all the more interesting to him. He wanted KangYoon to burst things out even more than it is now. KangYoon worried for a bit before looking for even more sounds.

However, when he played back the sound, the light turned even murkier.

‘Ugh....’

Seeing a darker grey than before, KangYoon shivered subconsciously. Kim JaeHoon also shook his head this time.

“I think it was better before.”

“You’re right. Let’s go at it again.”

KangYoon looked for other sounds to combine. Many types of musical notes harmonized in front of him. When he did that, the grey from the beginning slowly faded out and white became more apparent. However, grey still remained and made him concerned.

“I think it’s good.”

Not knowing that, Kim JaeHoon was happy that his song was good, but KangYoon shook his head.

“I think it will become awkward if we add the lyrics later. I need to make it so that your voice fits the song well. Can I record your ‘ahh’ voice for a second?”

KangYoon plugged in a microphone and gave it to him. Then, he switched the synthesizer to the grand piano and played a G.

“Aah—.”

“Okay.”

After recording Kim JaeHoon’s voice, KangYoon started looking into more things to play. He had to look for instruments that matched Kim JaeHoon’s vocal frequencies.

“Hyung, I’ll be off first then. I have a schedule to do tomorrow.”

“Okay then.”

In the end, Kim JaeHoon ended up falling asleep without managing to see the finished song.

The next day.

Rubbing his sleepy eyes, Kim JaeHoon walked to the bathroom to wash his face. But then, he saw that KangYoon’s room was open. When he passed by, KangYoon was still in front of the computer.

“Hyun!?”

Kim JaeHoon entered his room without knocking in surprise. KangYoon looked back at him with a very tired expression.

“...Oh, you’re up.”

“Yes. You didn’t have any sleep?”

“Uh, it’s this time already? Well, I’m done anyway. I have a day off too. I’ll be fine.”

KangYoon stood up from his seat and stretched his arms out. His body was screaming in muscular distress.

“The intro is perfect now. Listen to it.”

KangYoon played back the song immediately. The brass instruments bursting out all in one go made Kim JaeHoon fall for it immediately. He drowned in pleasure for those 20 seconds.

The introduction ended when his ‘ahh’ voice started.

“That’s a pity. I wanted to listen to more of it.”

“I had no time, so I’ll let you hear the completed version later. But for now, I need some sleep.”

KangYoon couldn’t endure anymore and collapsed onto his bed. Very soon, he could be heard sleeping.

“He worked so hard during the day, and did all that during the night... you’re amazing, bro.”

Kim JaeHoon shook his head while shrugging his shoulders.

In his view, KangYoon was an amazing man the more he saw him.

Signing a contract that stated that one party was buying a building from another, KangYoon shook hands with the former owner of the building.

“Will you be coming in immediately?”

“We’ll take place in a week. There’s a lot to do including some construction work.”

“Okay. Although this building is a little old, its location is something I’m proud about. Please use it well in the future.”

The former owner of the building asked KangYoon to take care of the building well since this had many memories from him.

After the contract was over, Lee HyunJi spoke in joy.

“Yes. Now I feel like things are starting to work.”

“We got this a lot easier than we expected. I thought we would only be able to get it by autumn.”

“Well, you did push the budget a little.”

“Hahaha.”

KangYoon laughed awkwardly. He felt that he would never be able to buy a building if he kept going into detail.

“Phew... Just as I thought that we got some room in our finances thanks to JaeHoon... Looks like I’ll have to tighten my belt again. Please consider my situation running the company, would you? My waist size decreased by an inch these days.”

“Weren’t you 24 before?”

“Oh? How did you know that? I don’t remember telling you that.”

(T/N: “tighten one’s belt” = live with a lower budget)

The two had a very bright mood between them. Achieving something gave them inexplicable pleasure, and the two knew how to enjoy it.

Lee HyunJi told KangYoon that she would pay the money by the date, and the matters about the concert hall ended there.

A few days later, Lee HyunJi settled the balance. She had already done things like confirming the certified copy of the register or things related to tax. Since this was buying a building, there were a lot of things to do.

Like that, a concert venue under the name of World Entertainment appeared in Yeonnam-dong, near Hongdae.

After everything was over, KangYoon and Lee HyunJi took White Moonlight to visit their new place.

“...It definitely is wide.”

Lee HyunAh was surprised to see a concert hall that took both the first and second floors. It was definitely wide since the second floor was included as well.

“It seems like it wasn’t originally intended to be used as a concert hall, but as a shopping area. But I bought it since its location was good.”

“Well. That’s true. It’s not far from a subway station. If we promote this well, then we might get a lot of people.”

Lee HyunAh walked forward. Since this place was very wide, her voice echoed quite loudly. Hearing that, she tilted her head. Though, KangYoon spoke as though he understood what she was thinking.

“I’m planning to do a proper acoustic reconstruction here. The clubs near here mostly had horrible acoustic construction with tight spaces. I’m planning to do one properly even if we have to spend a lot of money.”

“Oooh, I’m definitely looking forward to that.”

Lee HyunAh exclaimed out as though this was her dream coming true. The rest of her band was the same.

Lee HyunJi calmly told them.

“The reconstruction will begin next week. We’re planning to use the 3rd and 4th floors as waiting rooms for the performers. We’re planning to use this entire building as a small concert hall.”

“Wow... this isn’t a joke. Is it?”

Lee HyunAh gulped. She was worried that a small company with not a lot of members was going beyond its capabilities. Seeming to notice that, Lee HyunJi calmly told her.

“This is an investment from us to you. You did hear about it, right? You’ll be the ones playing here every week. It will be troublesome for us if you don’t get us any achievements even when we prepared all this for you, right?”

“Th... that’s right.”

Unlike KangYoon’s words, Lee HyunJi’s words pressured them. They now felt the responsibility. The fact that KangYoon stayed silent meant that he implied the same.

After thinking for a while, Lee HyunAh replied in a serious voice.

“Don’t worry, director-unni. This investment. We’ll never let you regret it.”

“Okay. I’ll look forward to that then.”

Lee HyunJi turned around and headed to the place where the broadcast studio will be. She implied that the rest will be up to KangYoon.

“Sheesh. Everyone, listen to the Director’s words well, okay?”

“Yes.”

Thanks to Lee HyunJi’s heavy words, White Moonlight had a slightly heavy atmosphere. Everyone calmly followed behind KangYoon.

KangYoon stood in the empty space where the stage would be. Right now, there was nothing there. KangYoon talked about the facilities he would bring in.

“Over there, we’ll bring a mid-sized speaker. I want to decrease the number of monitor speakers as much as possible. I want the stage as clean as possible, after all.”

“But don’t we need one for each instrument?”

Kim JinDae’s words brought about KangYoon’s agreement.

“Yes. We do need them. If it’s possible, let’s replace them with headsets or in-ear mics. It may be more expensive to do, but it will be a lot better. However, we’ll have to get them ready since other teams performing here may use it.”

“Yes. If we have sufficient monitor speakers and a mixer with enough channels, I think it will do.”

Replied Lee ChaHee. KangYoon also thought that she was right.

KangYoon asked White Moonlight about the things they needed on stage. They each had their own instruments anyway. However, a drum kit and some amps were still necessary. Since they were things that other bands required when they performed here, they decided that they would buy them, and they wrote down other things they needed as well.

While discussing that, time passed by in a flash.

After having a look around the 3rd and 4th floors, Lee HyunJi came back down.

“Let’s go now, then.”

When Lee HyunJi lead the way out, everyone followed suit.

Inside the van heading home, KangYoon asked the members of White Moonlight.

“We need to decide on a name for the hall. What do you think would be good?”

“A name?”

Lee HyunAh shook her head saying that this wasn’t her forte. Everyone pondered seriously about the name.

At that time, Lee HyunJi, who was driving, just threw one out of nowhere.

“How about Lunas?”

“Lunas?”

When KangYoon showed curiosity, Lee HyunJi continued.

“Luna is the goddess of the moon, isn’t it? White Moonlight, Luna. Goddesses. Don’t they seem related?”

“That’s good. How about it?”

“It’s good!”

Kim JinDae thought that it was very cool, while Lee ChaHee thought that the name was more suited for a coffee shop, but everyone rather liked the name.

On their way back.

World Entertainment’s new concert hall, Lunas, was born.

President Choo ManJi of Yoonseul Entertainment was all smiles recently.

His 5-girl idol group, DiaTeen, was doing very well in the absence of Eddios, while other entertainers of his company was rising as well. Thanks to that, the stocks of his company was rising by the day. The shareholders and directors all looked at him very pleasantly.

However, despite all that, just one thing was not to his liking.

‘Ah, Eddios... I need to crush that Eddios once and for all.’

In his own office, he was tearing his hair out while looking at a news portal about entertainers. In the article, the journalist said that he or she was going to compare the charm points of Eddios and DiaTeen and compared their respective leaders, Jung MinAh and Kang SeGyung.

‘Why is our SeGyung second!’

The article said that Jung MinAh was superior to Kang SeGyung by about 55:45. This was a much better result than before where it was mostly 80:20 or 70:30.

The problem was the comments section. It was as though Jung MinAh had some fanatic followers of her own, as the comments section all talked about Jung MinAh. Although DiaTeen received positive feedback, many people found her lacking when compared against Jung MinAh. Especially regarding dancing.

However, he was cool-headed.

‘This is because each of their members have strong characteristics. Jung MinAh for dancing, Han JooYeo for singing, Lilie (T/N: Ailee?) for acting cute. A month or two of difference is really hard to overcome. I don’t think there’s much difference in their skills... We were pushed back in marketing.’

During Eddios’s debut days, MG Entertainment’s marketing was very strong. It wasn’t an exaggeration to say that the biggest girl idol group fandom was made back then. President Choo ManJi didn’t try to clash head-on against that fandom, and slowly shaved

away from the outer rim. If he did clash head one, DiaTeen may have been buried way before. Eddios was that strong back then.

However, the moon wanes after it's full. With Eddios's long-term stay in the US, their fans had left them, and were slowly becoming more and more forgotten. It wasn't like they achieved any success there either. However, it was unknown what the directors at MG were thinking, and they didn't seem to have any intentions on bringing them back.

‘Are they planning to not contract them again? Although I did hear that they were raising a new girl group, but I'm not sure if they'll be as strong as Eddios... Did they ask for something unreasonable? I wouldn't know.’

Although he didn't know about the internal affairs of another company, this was an opportunity for him and DiaTeen. He closed his browser, then called for his secretary.

“Secretary Han. Call SeGyung in her practice room to come up.”

– Yes, sir.

After a brief while, a lady with a short violet hair entered his office.

“Sit.”

She greeted the president and sat down.

“SeGyung, is practice going well these days?”

“Yes. We'll have our comeback soon, won't we? Everyone's trying hard.”

“Well, you girls can take care of yourselves now.”

He asked about their progress. Kang SeGyun talked about how they've been doing lately.

After that discussion, President Choo ManJi went into topic.

“The title song this time, why don't we get it from another place

this time?”

“Another place?”

Kang SeGyung tilted his head. Until now, the title songs for all of their albums were composed internally within the company. She also didn't question her company's style. But now, they were getting an external one to do one for them.

“Are you trying to give a change?”

“Change? Well, I guess you can say that. You know, the hot composer these days. You've heard of him haven't you? About Muse.”

“Yes. Of course I have. You mean the one that rose through Korea ONE STAR, right? He's pretty famous nowadays... and people all said that Jay Han won the program thanks to him.”

“The internet was one thing, but this side was an uproar too. He should have gotten quite a lot of requests this time, I think. But seeing that he's still quiet, I think he's being cautious. Maybe he's trying to raise his value... but I heard that he's at World Entertainment, where Kim JaeHoon is currently at. I think he has good senses, and I think it would be pretty good to ask him for a song this time. If the song is good, we'll have to invest. Let's go there with me tomorrow.”

“Okay.”

After everything was over and Kang SeGyung was about to leave, President Choo ManJi stopped her.

“SeGyung.”

“Yes? Do you have something else to talk about?”

“Let's put some filler in your nose when you do your comeback this time.”

“Eek? Why? My nose is quite high already! I don't want to do it!”

“It’s just a joke.”

When President Choo ManJi giggled, Kang SeGyung shivered.

“This is the primary shopping list for the equipment we need. There are things that aren’t sold domestically, so you’ll have to look into a lot of things.”

“I’m not that knowledgeable with musical equipment....”

Jung HyeJin was worried after receiving the list from KangYoon. However, KangYoon told her about foreign music sites and blogs that explained in detail.

“If you see here, there are websites that lead you to where you can buy them. Compare their prices and calculate the date they can come in the country by, as well as the taxes. The construction can only start once they’re all in place.”

“Okay....”

Jung HyeJin sighed deeply saying that she got another difficult workload. Understanding her, KangYoon added one final line.

“After this is over, I’ll give you vacation and a bonus.”

“Please leave it to me!”

Her eyes were suddenly lit on fire.

After his work was over at work and he was about to go down to the studio, Lee HyunJi stepped into his office. Behind her were two guests.

“President, you have guests.”

“Guests?”

When KangYoon saw, it was a man with narrow eyes and a thin body. Behind him was a lady with a short, violet hair that looked to be an entertainer.

“Whoa. It really was you, Mr. KangYoon. No, I guess you’re

President KangYoon now. It's so nice to see you here."

"President Choo?"

KangYoon stood up from his seat and accepted the hand that was offered to him. Although this visit was outside his expectation, he met the guest with a bright smile.

Jung HyeJin gave them coffee and the four sat down on the sofa.

The first words came from President Choo ManJi.

"I only heard that you started your business a while ago, so I wasn't able to send you any flowers. Please excuse me."

"Not at all."

KangYoon shook his head. He was curious about President Choo's business with him. After briefly talking about recent matters, President Choo ManJi's business came out.

"I want to buy Muse's song."

"Who is going to sing it?"

President Choo ManJi pointed at the lady next to him.

"DiaTeen. I wanted to see the composer that is producing many good songs nowadays. I heard that I could meet one here."

A song for DiaTeen.

Although this was unintentional, didn't this mean that he had to create a song for Eddios's competitors by his own hand?

KangYoon felt somewhat strange at this offer.

Chapter 109. Go? Or No Go? (2)

“The release date should be the end of July or the beginning of August then.”

“I’m thinking of the beginning of August.”

“Will you be using this as the title song?”

“Yes. I wanted to try another theme this time. I heard that President KangYoon, you know of this composer called Muse very well....”

President Choo ManJi looked at leisure. He looked around the office to find this so called ‘Muse’.

KangYoon seemed to have noticed that and replied right away.

“Muse is our exclusive composition team. The one in charge of composition is in the US, while I’m in charge of the arrangement. The two of us together are called Muse.”

“So that’s how it is. That’s why Jay Han called you ‘Composer Lee KangYoon’. Then I guess I should talk about this with you?”

“Indeed.”

President Choo ManJi sat up straight. Kang SeGyung, who was next to him, also perked up her ears in nervousness. This was business now.

KangYoon asked first.

“What’s the theme of the album this time?”

“I want to go with a cheerleader theme to match the summer.”

“That’s quite a drastic change compared to the DiaTeen up til now. Until now, they showed that they’re cute yet strong.”

“Thanks to that, we had a lot of female fans on top of the male population. You’re right. Since we’re trying to go with a completely different theme, the composers at our company could

not make something that satisfied that theme.”

President Choo ManJi frowned a little. He didn't seem satisfied with something.

KangYoon immediately realized what President Choo ManJi's intentions were.

‘He's planning to drag Eddios's fandom away.’

It was pretty clear that President Choo ManJi was planning to crush Eddios, who were in the US, and was unable to take care of their domestic fans. Even though it was halved, no other groups had a fandom large enough to contend with Eddios just yet. After all, the word ‘uncle fans’ originated with their appearance.

President Choo ManJi pretty clearly intended to steal those fans away with the album this time.

KangYoon hesitated. He was very close with the members of Eddios. However, it would be nonsensical to miss such an opportunity just because of his past.

“Can I take a call first?”

“How long would it take?”

“10 minutes will do. I won't make you wait long.”

“Okay. I shall wait then.”

KangYoon stood up from his seat and went outside. Lee HyunJi took care of facing President Choo ManJi. She talked about many things with him.

‘Go? Or no go?’

Having come up to the roof, KangYoon pondered a lot about this question. There was no reason for HeeYoon to reason. The problem was KangYoon himself.

‘I guess all sorts of things can happen in life. I do feel sorry....’

He knew that the girls of Eddios were having a hard time in the

US. He also knew how foolish it was to have sent them there. The US and Korea differed drastically from culture to races. He became more angry as he thought about how the directors at MG Entertainment sent them there without any preparations or countermeasures at all.

Once a seat was empty, another person would fill it. This was the same for the entertainment industry. Just like how DiaTeen was trying to take the place of the top that was vacated by Eddios's absence. However, he felt strange since he now had to create the weapon that would stimulate that process.

‘But work is work.’

KangYoon called HeeYoon. after a few rings, HeeYoon's voice was heard.

– Yes, oppa.

“HeeYoon. Are you at home?”

– Yup. It's night here after all. I'm working.

HeeYoon played the synthesizer. It wasn't that her brother couldn't trust her, but she still intended to make him reassured.

After a brief talk, KangYoon talked about the matter at hand.

“I called you since there's a request for a song.”

– A song? There's a lot of those nowadays. Who's going to sing it?”

“DiaTeen.”

– Eeh? You mean Eddios's rivals?”

HeeYoon's voice got louder in surprise. She also knew that KangYoon was behind Eddios's rise. And the planner behind all of it was now getting a request to press them back down....

“I haven't accepted yet, but I think I'll have to do it.”

– Really? And the theme's decided already?

HeeYoon asked about work. She was a full-fledged composer now. Regardless of who it was for, this was work. Her personal opinions should not matter.

“The theme is cheerleaders. The mood should be light and fun. I’m not quite sure yet, but they’ll probably make the choreography like that as well.”

– Ooh, looks like boys will have something to look forward to. Should I write the lyrics too?

“I’m not sure about that. I think it will be better to let them write it. I don’t think I can quite put myself in their shoes.”

– Let’s try it once just in case. We must earn money “There, there. Greedy for money, now?”

– It’s your business, oppa. I have to help you earn a lot.

KangYoon felt proud of her sister who was so considerate of him. It felt as though it was yesterday that he laughed at her when she said she wanted to become a composer, but now she was a crucial element on his side. He also regretted that he didn’t realize she had such a potential earlier.

After the call, KangYoon went back to the office. Inside, Lee HyunJi and President Choo ManJi were having a conversation.

“I don’t see Miss Kang SeGyung.”

“SeGyung? She went downstairs with another trainee, saying that she wanted to look around.”

“Ooh, that should be JiMin then.”

KangYoon then sat down. Then he went straight into the matter.

“Please leave the song to us. If you believe in us, we’ll do our best.”

President Choo ManJi extended his hand in satisfaction.

“Please take care of our girls.”

“Please take care of us too.”

Then, they talked about detailed matters. Since President Choo ManJi was the head of a large company, there was no problem with money. He said that he would leave the composition, arrangement, and even the lyrics to Muse. KangYoon replied that he would do his best. The problem came later.

“We have our own choreographer team, so you don’t need to worry about this part.”

Although the composer would influence the choreography as well, KangYoon nodded his head.

“Okay. Just tell us what beat you would like to go with.”

“A 16-beat is too fast, so please make a simple but slightly fast 8-beat song.”

“Do you need anything else?”

“I’ll tell you those later. Right now, these should suffice.”

There was nothing else required. After his matters were over, President Choo ManJi called Kang SeGyung. Soon, she came up to the office.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes.”

KangYoon saw the two out of his company.

President Choo ManJi left after asking to write a good song.

“President. Is this really okay?”

“What’s okay?”

Seeing off President Choo ManJi’s car, Lee HyunJi asked cautiously.

“I mean DiaTeen’s song request. This will definitely affect Eddios.”

“I know. Right now, I’m the president at World Entertainment. This request will bring our company big benefits. Eddios was a matter of my past when I still worked at MG Entertainment. Shouldn’t I try to do my best at the place I am now?”

“That’s true, but it still tastes bitter.”

“I also feel quite ironic, and angry too. I went through such trouble to raise them, so they should at least manage them well.... If it were up to me, I wouldn’t have let such an opportunity come up for DiaTeen at all.”

KangYoon gritted his teeth while thinking about the directors of MG Entertainment who sent Eddios over to America. There was no way he felt good when he thought about the girls he practically raised being taken over by someone else. He didn’t like this situation either.

As though she knew how he felt, Lee HyunJi spoke.

“Such a nonsensical company. Let’s gobble them up later.”

“What?”

This was just a joke to lighten the mood, but there was a bone in those words. She emphasized again when KangYoon asked back in surprise.

“A mere MG Entertainment, they’re just fatasses with no brain. Rather than see such a hard-earned effort topple down, let’s just eat them up instead. What do you think?”

“Hahahahahaha. Really? That doesn’t sound so bad.”

KangYoon laughed loudly at her words. This was definitely something pleasurable to think about. Though, he knew fully that that was impossible to do right now. As of now, the company differed in scale by a factor of dozens. Although it was nonsensical, just thinking wasn’t a sin.

He felt better thinking about it.

“I wish we could do that.”

KangYoon shrugged his shoulders, wishing that such a day would come later.

“What did you think after looking around the company?”

Inside the car back to their own office, President Choo ManJi asked Kang SeGyung.

“It was very clean. There was a studio and even a practice studio for a band.”

“How many trainees were there?”

“Just one, the one guided me.”

“Well, it should be quite burdensome for a small company to hold many trainees. It should be quite hard to make a group too. Just what is he thinking? Did you see her skills?”

“I just heard her do some training, but all she did was vocalization practice. For some reason, she never sung anything....”

“Looks like they got someone who’s completely new to the field. Well, who would want to go to such a small company? Everyone would aim for the larger companies.”

President Choo ManJi made a bitter smile. Just like how job-seekers all wanted to enter large companies, trainee entertainers also wanted to enter companies that were large and stable. It was natural for everyone to long for a stable environment.

“There’s Kim JaeHoon, and that guy Lee KangYoon, so I shouldn’t take them lightly, but looks like they’ll experience some growth pains. Good, let’s just get our song and get ready for that time, SeGyung.”

“Yes, President.”

“And you get some filler in your nose.”

“No!”

The car headed to their own company like that.

“Burn the — broing days — and fly high to the sky —”

Lee HyunAh’s voice was ringing out inside a practice room in World Entertainment. Just like usual, Lee HyunAh had her both hands on the microphone and the mic stand and sang with all her lungs. Next to her, Lee ChaHee played the bass while waving around her hair, while Jung ChanGyu set fire on the distortion on the electric guitar.

‘Hmm... Is it still too bland?’

However, there was a guest in the practice room today. It was Park SoYoung. She tilted her head and focused on the song.

After the song was over, Lee HyunAh approached her while wiping the sweat off her forehead.

“The song’s very good.”

Handing over the score, Lee HyunAh praised the song.

“It’s not too bland?”

“You mean the melody? I guess you can call it that, but it’s very easy to follow. Well, maybe you can take it that way, but it feels different with all that power added into the song. So it doesn’t entirely feel like that. It’s good.”

“Phew. That’s good.”

Park SoYoung sighed in relief. This was a result of her working on her song for a few days straight without eating anything after she heard KangYoon’s advice. Then, she ran all the way here without even putting on proper makeup and handed the score to Lee HyunAh. Hearing that the result wasn’t bad, she was very relieved.

“Did you show this to KangYoon-oppa too?”

“I did, at the beginning. He was the one who advised me. I changed the things per his advice, and added my own opinions into it as well.”

“No wonder the song is good. Are you giving this to me?”

“Hm.... I’ll think about it.”

“What, did I just get rejected?”

“Hahaha.”

Park SoYoung jokingly stuck out her tongue. Actually, she would be very thankful if White Moonlight sang this song. Lee HyunAh had her own thoughts. She spoke while looking at the score.

“I want to sing this at the RockFes, what does everyone think about that?”

Lee ChaHee answered first.

“I’m in.”

Jung ChanGyu and Kim JinDae all agreed as well. There were no objections. In fact, Park SoYoung was surprised.

“Wait a minute. RockFes? You mean the Rock Festival that’s held in GoYang? It’s quite a big event from what I remember....”

When her eyes widened, Kim JinDae teased her.

“You got that right. The rock mania should all be there, I think? Fufu, SoYoung, your debut stage is quite big, eh?”

“Huuh? Wa... wait. Don’t you need to talk about this to KangYoon-oppa?”

“He shouldn’t object too much, if it’s this good.”

Seeing Lee HyunAh have such a confidence in the song, Park SoYoung’s shoulders straightened up slightly.

“R... really?”

“Of course. Don’t worry about it.”

“Uuuh....”

Park SoYoung put her hand on her thumping chest.

Her song was going to be sung in front of numerous people. This made her feel pressured the more she thought about it.

‘HeeYoon is a full-fledged composer too.’

She already started considering HeeYoon as a rival in this industry.

World Entertainment’s concert hall was under reconstruction right now. Right now, it was the acoustic construction. Putting panels on the ceiling to absorb sound and blocking the windows to block out light was underway right now.

KangYoon and Lee HyunJi were watching as all of this happened from the entrance of the hall.

“The progress isn’t that fast.”

Lee HyunJi shook her head, as this wasn’t to her liking. However, KangYoon consoled her saying that it was alright.

“It’s better to be slow and steady. If the construction is unstable because we push them too hard, we’ll have to do the same thing again later.”

“Even so.... It just feels too slow. Perhaps it’s because I spent my own money in it?”

“Hahaha. Actually, I feel the same.”

The two looked around the construction scene. The person in charge of the construction guided them around and told them how the construction was going. KangYoon listened to the explanation and told the person in charge to go back to work. He didn’t want to hold on to someone who had work to do for so long.

While looking around, Lee HyunJi spoke.

“The facilities here are definitely better than the ones in the area. Now, we should look into renting the concert hall.”

“I am thinking about that too. Indie bands will be our primary target.”

“How are you going to do about the renting fee? You should match the surrounding concert halls.”

KangYoon shook his head.

“I told you this last time, but the renting fee for the places around this area is too expensive. This is also why bands are being pushed out of Hongdae. I’m planning to cut the price low.”

“If you do, you’ll receive hate from the others.”

Said Lee HyunJi in worry. The concert venues in the surrounding area had all joined hands already. There was nothing good to be the ugly duckling.

However, KangYoon was firm in his stance.

“The reason we made the concert hall is because of the high renting fees. And I want to give opportunities to those who want to sing. It will suffice just for it to aid us in funds even a little.”

“Well... I guess that’s true, but the others will shave the price off too. It will obviously become a chicken game.”

KangYoon replied calmly saying that there was nothing to worry about.

“It’s fine. We made this for White Moonlight’s performances anyway. Also, we can also expect our image to go up since we lowered the price. And if the renting fees of all the places around here go down, then we can perhaps expect the indie field to become more active again, right?”

“It will be good if that happens, but the process will be quite a hard one. They aren’t fools either.”

She knew what KangYoon was thinking, but she still couldn't hide her concerns. However, KangYoon was firm. He spoke again, saying that this couldn't be negotiated.

"I believe that thinking simply will lead to the answer. It's like focusing on one thing. If you concern yourself with too much detail, you'll lose sight of something important."

"...I guess that's true. Well, fine then. Those asses should take care of themselves. Actually, I didn't like how they ripped off the young ones either. Fu, I guess I should consider myself contributing to the industry then."

"Hahaha."

The two left the venue while laughing.

Like that, World Entertainment's exclusive concert hall was taking shape

Chapter 110. Go? Or No Go? (3)

[Over here.]

HeeYoon was lead by her friend, Helena, to a place where the cheerleader club of her university was practicing. Several ladies wearing tight-fitting clothes were in the middle of practice in a place that was like a basketball court.

[Wow. Everyone's so pretty.]

[Right?]

HeeYoon couldn't hide her surprise while looking at the several white ladies who had a tall stature and a thin bodline. They were wearing red cheerleader clothes and looked very passionate about practice. They lifted others up like it was nothing, jumped 2m into the air like it was nothing, and landed down like it was nothing. This was a completely new experience for HeeYoon.

[They're so cool.]

[Not everybody can do that. Those girls have quite the background. Don't even start with me with their studies.]

They had the looks, the smarts and the background. They truly were perfect.

Just as HeeYoon picked up her pen to write something down, the leader-like lady walked towards them.

[Helena? Wow. This is rare. What are you doing here?]

[Michelle!]

The two ladies hugged each other as though they were overjoyed to see each other. After having a brief talk, Helena soon introduced HeeYoon too her. Although Michelle didn't seem to have any interest in the rather short, Asian lady in front of her, her eyes changed when she heard the name 'HeeYoon'.

[HeeYoon? From composition?]

[Hello, I'm HeeYoon Lee. I came here to get some inspiration.]

[Really? If I can help, I'd be glad to.]

Michelle seemed to have heard a lot about HeeYoon recently, and approached her very kindly. She gladly accepted HeeYoon's request. She even prepared a seat for her.

[Thanks. I'll treat you to something next time.]

[Sure. This is good, getting treated by the top student of Composition.]

Although HeeYoon herself wasn't aware of it, she was rather famous within campus. Well, it was reasonable, since she never failed to take the top spot.

'My brother said that there should be differences in cheerleaders of America and of Korea, and yet he still told me that they were fundamentally the same. Here, the girls have power. What are the cheerleaders of Korea like?'

Michelle returned to her place, and practice resumed after a loud shout from the cheerleaders.

Listening to them, HeeYoon wrote down the things that came up in her head into the notepad in front of her.

Currently, Yoonseul Entertainment was in an uproar after they heard about who their president went to for DiaTeen's next song.

It was none other than Eddios's former planner!

This rumor, spread around by Kang SeGyung, caused a big wave across the entire company. The directors, the ordinary employees, and even the members of DiaTeen were worried that KangYoon might give them a strange song to help Eddios out. The company-exclusive composers especially had a lot of complaints about this as they were practically left out this time.

Those complaints showed up in the meeting.

The PR team leader showed his objection with his low voice.

“If I had known that the composer Muse was the planner of Eddios, I would have objected to this idea.”

How much have they suffered thanks to Eddios until now? They did their utmost best to topple Eddios’s place and take the top spot. But the person they asked to write their song this time was none other than the source of all their troubles; the planner of Eddios. As the planner of Eddios, he may have the skills, but his intentions were still concerning.

Another member of the planning team cautiously spoke out.

“I also don’t see it as a good opportunity. If he was simply from MG Entertainment, we wouldn’t go this far, but he just had to be related to Eddios. He’s the person that created the group that we so hated until now. As for what he thinks of Eddios... I do not know what to say.”

One composer, with a rather peculiar hat, added to this opinion.

“There are many good composers that make good songs that follow the trends. There are many good composers out there other than Muse. I’m rather concerned that you picked a composer that may become a problem to us later.”

Everyone was of one mind. However, President Choo ManJi shook his head in dissatisfaction.

“Think about it in another way. Lee KangYoon wasn’t in a good place when he left MG. Despite his numerous achievements, he was framed of embezzling company funds. Though, he was proved innocent later. MG chased out the golden egg-laying goose without even cutting its stomach. Do you think Lee KangYoon has good will towards MG? Wouldn’t he be rearing to topple them down instead?”

“That’s....”

Seeing the employees unable to answer, President Choo ManJi

seemed to be more motivated and continued to speak.

“MG’s former president, Lee HyunJi was also working with him. HyunJi, that picky girl isn’t someone to work with just anyone. The two seemed to get along well, and we can see that from their company’s growth rate. Some time ago, they perfectly made Kim JaeHoon return in an absolute blast. Though, this is a field separate from composition. Do you really believe that we should let these people, who don’t have any good will towards MG, and are skilled to boot, go?”

“Oh....”

Everyone then exclaimed in realization. When everyone accepted, President Choo ManJi shook his head and looked at everyone as though they were pathetic.

“Think. Lee KangYoon is a sword that we must use. And we are the person that possesses that sword in our hand. We just need to worry about not getting cut. If everyone’s so concerned about it, I’ll tell him to send us a sample, so think about how are you going to promote DiaTeen’s next album by the next meeting.”

President Choo ManJi waved his hand to declare the end of the meeting. Everyone left the meeting room like a receding tide. There was no way they felt good since they started out kind, but ended with a scolding.

“Secretary Yoon, call Lee KangYoon and ask him when he could send a sample.”

– Yes, sir.

“Oh, and also, tell him to visit our company once.”

Ordered President Choo ManJi before heading to the practice room where DiaTeen were currently practicing.

“...I’ll send it to you by tomorrow.”

– Okay. And also, the president has asked you if you can visit the company, if your time will allow it.

At that request, KangYoon thought about it for a while before replying.

“Okay, then. Please tell him that I will visit the company tomorrow along with the sample.”

-Then I shall tell him that.

After the call, KangYoon turned around to his score. However, that last request to visit YoonSeul Entertainment didn't leave his mind.

‘They sure seem concerned.’

The song wasn't even finished, but he was asked to visit their company. It was safe to say that the other side was rather concerned. It wasn't that he didn't understand. For DiaTeen, the fact that the planner of Eddios was writing them a song must have made them complicated.

‘Well, if they reject purely due to that, then they are only at that level.’

KangYoon decided to take it simply. If the other side was so petty, he would get nothing out of working with them. He instead thought about how to arrange the song that HeeYoon sent him.

The next day.

KangYoon finished editing some of the song and visited Yoonseul Entertainment. The secretary came out to greet him and immediately lead him to the president's office.

“Welcome.”

President Choo ManJi and KangYoon shook hands, and Choo ManJi brewed him coffee as well.

“I'm very sorry. I did not want to disturb you until you finished on your work....”

As he brewed him coffee, President Choo ManJi seemed very apologetic. KangYoon shook his head while accepting the coffee.

“It’s fine. I understand. It must not have been easy to let the former planner of Eddios take care of DiaTeen’s song.”

“Hahaha. I’m rather embarrassed. The people under me are rather short-sighted. I really should have denied any objections. But these days, kids don’t work properly if they don’t get a reasonable explanation.”

Although what he said was right, KangYoon understood the implications behind those words as well. President Choo ManJi also wanted to listen to what the song was like this time.

KangYoon handed him a USB stick. He didn’t want to talk about this topic anymore. President Choo ManJi accepted the USB and played the track.

“Electronic?”

A rather crude Electronic music soon changed to a fun beat. President Choo ManJi widened his eyes after hearing the music that grabbed his heart in an instant. Although the first verse started 4 seconds into the song, it was replaced with a hum since it wasn’t recorded yet. However, the feeling could be transferred.

‘This is it!’

President Choo ManJi got the ‘feel’. Although the repetitive electronic style was simple, it was powerful, and it suited DiaTeen’s voices and choreography perfectly.

Although the sample was only a part of the 1st verse, he fell for it already.

“Let me listen to it just once more....”

He played it back once more just in case he had misheard. However, it wasn’t like the same song was going anywhere. The melody that easily stuck to his ear grabbed his heart immediately.

Obviously, this was a great outcome.

Hiding his excitement about having received a good song, President Choo ManJi spoke to KangYoon.

“...It’s not bad.”

“That’s good. Do you need anything else?”

“Hm.... Why don’t you meet the girls first? I think you should refer to their opinions rather than mine.”

President Choo ManJi himself had nothing else to ask of. He only wanted KangYoon to give him the best song he could.

KangYoon, along with President Choo ManJi, headed to the practice room where the girls of DiaTeen were.

The 5 girls of DiaTeen were doing practice when the two entered.

‘This... it’s been a while.’

The smell of thick sweat, the heat coming off their bodies; seeing DiaTeen practicing while wearing comfortable jerseys, he remembered of his past. Eddios also practiced like that – he made a bitter smile.

“Everyone gather round.”

President Choo ManJi gathered the girls. Everyone wiped the sweat off their heads and approached him.

“Huh? Composer.”

Kang SeGyung realized it was KangYoon, and KangYoon waved his hand. Soon, President Choo ManJi introduced KangYoon to them, and the members widened their eyes in shock. This was the case since Kang SeGyung had already told them that their song was coming from the former planner of Eddios.

“There, there, there. You have a lot of things you want to ask, right? And about Eddios too, right? But first comes the song.”

President Choo ManJi knew of his priorities and plugged the USB

into the audio first. Soon, the song played back. The repetitive yet familiar song made the girls all shake their bodies according to the rhythm. And when the melody started, they exclaimed slightly as well.

“This song’s so good. It’s like a night-club song.”

The most honest one of DiaTeen, Joo YeAh, spoke. A girl of the same age, Ji HyunJung, also agreed.

“You’re right, the beat’s good, and the melody’s good as well. The pitch isn’t too high, either.”

The youngest ones, Kim JiSook, and Han HyoJung, also added.

“I was worried that we were getting a strange song because of Eddios, but... is this a trap?”

“What the hell does that mean.”

Of course, the youngest ones were the rudest ones as well.

Kang SeGyung shook her head and spoke to KangYoon.

“The song is really good. If the entire track is like this, and there’s good choreography, this album will be a huge hit. Can I ask you one thing?”

“Go ahead.”

“Who’s the one doing the guide voice?”

Kang SeGyung wanted to know who the one humming was. The voice was very clean.

KangYoon answered honestly since it was no secret.

“She’s Lee HyunAh, a singer in our company.”

“Oh, I asked since I wanted to do something like a featuring later. Her voice is just so good....”

Although this was rather random, KangYoon had no reason to refuse. More good relations were better.

“That’s good with me. We’ll be helping each other out.”

Since the song was very good, the mood was very good as well.

The members of DiaTeen asked KangYoon an incredible number of things at this opportunity: about how KangYoon came to make Eddios, and what kind of people they were. Their questions were endless. President Choo ManJi also didn’t stop them either. He actually also wanted to borrow their words to satiate his own curiosity.

KangYoon told them reasonable stuff. He didn’t leak any company secrets, and usually told them about Eddios’s trivial habits and their lifestyle.

“Ha, sheesh. So Neither you nor Eddios talked to each other that much?”

“...Yes. Those girls act so cold. How scared do you think we were?”

KangYoon had already become close to DiaTeen, and was unable to hide his surprise when Han HyoJung grumbled.

“That’s strange. There’s no way they acted like that. I always told them to not make any enemies in this industry.”

Just as KangYoon tilted his head in confusion, Kang SeGyung replied.

“Their and our schedules overlapped for a while, didn’t it? At that time, Eddios avoided us consciously. At first, we talked to them a lot, but from some time onwards, they acted so cold.”

“Really?”

KangYoon thought about it for a moment.

Just when Eddios was able to firmly stand on their own in the industry, KangYoon took his hands off them and started doing another work. Although he received reports regularly, he did not specifically interfere with others’ work. He thought about the

things he heard about them.

‘I heard that they put up a strategy to no longer meet with DiaTeen, and that’s the reason. So they chose to avoid them. I’d rather crush them head on.’

KangYoon would have done so; enough to never let any girl groups rise in the industry again. However, the company decided to go safe rather than the dangerous route. Whether there were some behind-the-scenes deal, he didn’t know.

In any case, to Eddios, who rose to the top in one go after their debut, DiaTeen were naturally an obstacle to them. In the first place, the ‘top spot’ was harder to maintain than to get. Perhaps that was why they decided to not associate with DiaTeen.

‘A failure in strategy let the rise of a rival. Or, it might be that they needed a rival.’

To sum it up, it was like that. The result? Eddios and DiaTeen were in a horrible relationship. And that was why the girls of DiaTeen were worried that KangYoon might give them a strange song. Though, they were touched to receive such a great song.

KangYoon only laughed.

“You’ll have to listen to the end to find out. You only got the sample right now.”

“Even so, I think something like this is just great.”

Kim JiSook showed absolute trust in the song. Her eyes were already sparkling.

“Well, I’d be thankful if you do trust me. I shall reply with a good song.”

“Yes! Thank you, KangYoon-oppa.”

“Oppa?”

KangYoon slightly smiled at that word.

“Lol. Looks like KangYoon-‘oppa’ likes it.”

“That’s right, he’s an oppa.”

Joo YeAh and Ji HyunJung giggled. KangYoon’s tall stature and wide shoulders were attractive to the girls. Although he was in his 30s, he was skinny and had sharp eyes. He also had all the perfect conditions, so he was worthy(?) of the girls to call them ‘oppa’.

KangYoon also...

Didn’t dislike being called that so much.

The acoustic and illumination construction was finished, and acoustic equipment started coming in one after the other over at Lunas.

Thankfully, the speakers, mixers and other devices coming from foreign countries managed to pass customs early, and the construction was finished before the due date. Jung HyeJin was proud to have done all this.

“This speaker looks cool.”

Exclaimed Lee HyunJi while looking at the speaker hanging in the air. The speaker was hanging in the air with chains and was facing down. There were woofers on its side as well. There was no worry about sound at all.

“I also put design into consideration. You don’t even need to mention sound.”

KangYoon was confident in his choice. Since these came from foreign countries, their functions were over the top. Although he had to go through some suffering, it was all worth it – he thought.

“The first concert at Lunas will be from White Moonlight, right?”

“Of course, it was for them we constructed all this.”

“I wish we could invite another singer. Of course, with a low budget. We don’t have a lot of money on hand.”

Lee HyunJi said those last words just in case KangYoon brought some world-class singer. KangYoon was definitely the person to do that in her mind.

However, as always, KangYoon gave a completely different answer.

“How about we bring ‘her’ out this time?”

“Her? Who?”

“You know, the one we’ve been raising until now. I don’t think it will be bad to do a mid-way check. It will also be an experience for her too.”

“EEEEH!?”

Lee HyunJi realized what KangYoon was saying and shouted.

“You, you mean... JiMin?”

Kim JiMin.

KangYoon was thinking of showing the public World Entertainment’s sole trainee this time.

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